

strangled

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The Magazine of The Strangers Information Service

Strangled

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NOVEMBER 1993

Number 40

Stranglers Information Service
PO BOX 195
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PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED
ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH ALL
ENQUIRIES

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J J Burnel, Jet Black, Paul Roberts, John
Ellis, Dave Greenfield, Owen Carne, Carl
Davey, Jacquie Maidman, Wig &
Suzanne, Nik Yeomans, Jez, Jon, Danny,
Steve & Howard, Simon 'Spiky' Webb,
Sil Wilcox, Gary R., Hannah Holder,
Sally Buckingham, Peejay, Colin
Johnson, Ron Brown and YOU!



Editorial

(With apologies to Rudyard Kipling)

If you can keep your head when all about you often seem intent on sending you screaming to the funny farm, and not crack up when last minute tour dates are announced and everyone's blaming you (for not having the ESP to know about them in advance); If you can resist the compulsion to push the printer out of the window when it jams yet again in the middle of running several thousand address labels (and push the computer sales rep. out of the window with it when he assures you that 'this type of problem hardly ever occurs with this model' 'ha ha ha!'); If you can remain calm and remember when you hear frantic beating after dark at the portals of SIS and frenzied cries of 'Open this bloody door woman!' in an adopted Northern dialect that it isn't actually two escaped inmates from the local asylum but Paul and JE calling to give you a lift back to London (bless 'em), and when you've recovered from that fright not groan too loudly when Paul tells you his latest batch of jokes, and above all, if you can say that you've witnessed time and again (and I can) Stranglers performances of a calibre that blows everyone else off the live circuit and know that as the band head into their 20th year they're showing no signs of losing the plot, then, my dear, you can consider that it's been a pretty bloody good (if hectic!) year at SIS and bid a fond welcome to 1994!

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As you read this the band are undertaking their second UK tour of '93 (they were approached about this tour literally days before Fontwell, so there was no plot to keep anyone in the dark, honest injun!), they hit the US and Canada in a big way this summer, there have been European dates aplenty and I don't think that anyone who was at September's Convention could deny that the band gave it 100% - there goes a year and a half (as the song almost goes!) Many thanks, from SIS and the Stranglers for all your fantastic support this year - the only person not impressed by the enthusiasm that radiates from the mail arriving at SIS is our poor postman who has to lug it all up to the office day in day out! Enjoy the holiday season (however you choose to spend it), and I can assure you that you have every good reason to look forward to the band's anniversary year - Until then.....

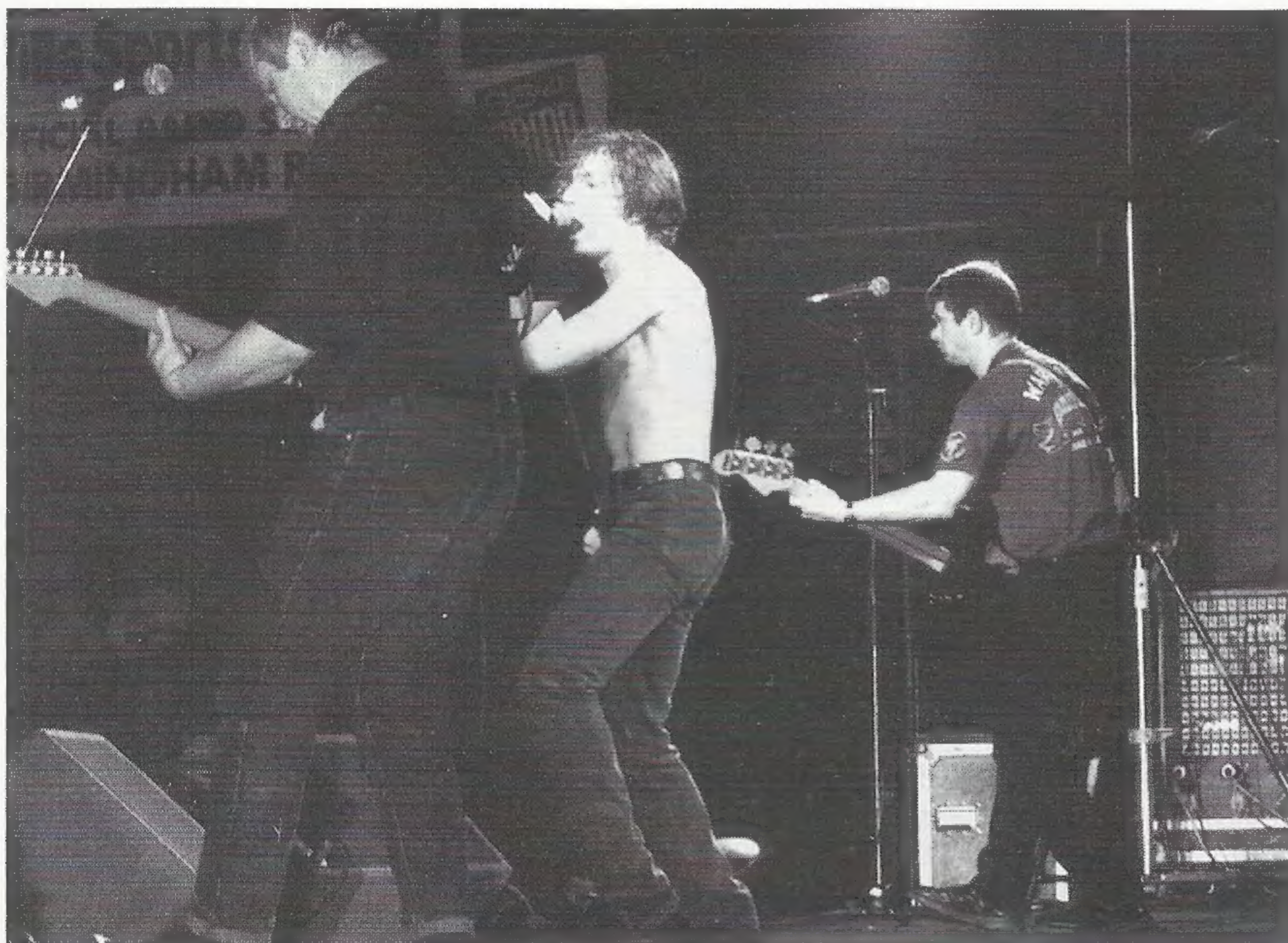
Cover photo: John Pridige

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strangled NEWS

NEW ALBUM

Work on the follow-up album to '...In The Night' is continuing and the preview of new tracks at the Convention left no one in any doubt that it's going to be an essential acquisition when it arrives. No release date for the album or single has yet been set, but I would think that not too much of 1994 will have passed before it finally sees daylight. Watch this space.



LET US INTRODUCE YOU TO THE FAMILY...

If anyone noticed a certain glow radiating from JE at the Convention it was probably because only a couple of days before, baby daughter Molly made her first appearance in the world - Our congratulations and very best wishes to John, Elaine and, of course, the new arrival herself!



And yet more 'Congratulations' are in order! We also send much luv and our best wishes to Katerina of SIS Greece on the recent birth of her first baby Dimitri, who, no doubt, has already been fitted for his first pair of mini-Docs!

STRANGLERS ON THE SHELF... WITH ANY LUCK

The drive to get *Strangled* onto the record/magazine shop shelves continues apace - thanks to those of you who have approached retailers in their localities - all information that has been passed to SIS has been followed up. We're still keen to spread the message further afield, so if you think that a shop(s) in your area may be interested in stocking the magazine, we'd love to hear from you.

EPIC B-SIDES - PLEASE RELEASE ME let me go...

Neil at Epic sends his sincerest apologies that this project has been delayed from its projected '93 release date - as a die-hard Stranglers fan himself he obviously has a vested interest in seeing the wealth of b-side material made available on CD for his own listening pleasure(!), but unfortunately there just hasn't been sufficient time available to push the release through this year. He has said that it will definitely be out in '94, and as stated previously, Epic will be financing a postcard mail-out, so as soon as we hear anything you will too.

SCANDAL!

STRANGLERS RAT TAKES ON SECOND DAY JOB!

Spotted by Simon W. as a lyric illustration for a track called 'Rats' (featured on Pearl Jam's latest album 'VS') a strangely familiar rodent (albeit with a bedraggled tail). What can it mean? Do PJ pay a better rate in Rat munchies per day? Has he been rat-napped?

Investigations will continue and findings included in the next *Strangled*.



Photo: Jon Hobley

F.T. BUSINESS NEWS SUMMARY - "SIS CONGLOMERATE CONTINUES TO EXPAND"

Not to be outdone in the midst of all the other new arrivals I am very pleased to announce that SIS has been extending its own family network with the establishment of two brand new overseas branches - SIS France and SIS Canada.



Heading SIS France (set up to fill the void left by the previous French branch who, it was felt, were losing the vital dedication somewhat) is Eric Dochez, assisted by SIS UK subscriber Marie Pierre Gaudez, Christian Dequesnes & Patrick Thorne. Their new fanzine *Strangulation* is available now and it's obvious that a great deal of thought and hard work has gone into the production of this excellent first issue. (It is, naturally, in French, so a dictionary or French-speaking companion will come in handy if translation is a problem!) The new official SIS France can be contacted at: STRANGULATION FANZINE, c/o ERIC DOCHEZ, 11 QUATER RUE DURIN, 59300 VALENCIENNES, FRANCE. (pse. enclose an SAE)

Our second fledgling, SIS Canada, is certainly breaking new ground as this will be the first time ever that SIS has had an official branch in this territory. Set up by subscribers Margaret English, John Jylanne, Adrian & Christina Liggins and Simon & Cindy Barraball an impressive start has already been made to what we're sure will be an auspicious term of office - Margaret, who has been placed in charge of PR (the 'public relations' PR, not Paul Roberts, although I'm sure it wouldn't do any harm to have someone in charge of *him* occasionally!) has already had 'Much Music' (Canada's version of MTV) broadcast a short feature on SIS Canada during a recent half-hour spotlight on the Stranglers.

More importantly, she became aware that the programme researchers at the TV station had recorded some erroneous information on the band and she persuaded them to re-record it pronto before the broadcast! (This is what we want!) Their proposed newsletter 'Northwinds' is currently in production, and they can be contacted at SIS CANADIAN BRANCH, 484 CHURCH ST. SUITE, 1418, TORONTO, ONTARIO M4Y 2CY, CANADA. (pse. enclose an SAE)

A warm welcome and Good Luck from the Stranglers and SIS UK to both these additions to the SIS Global Network!

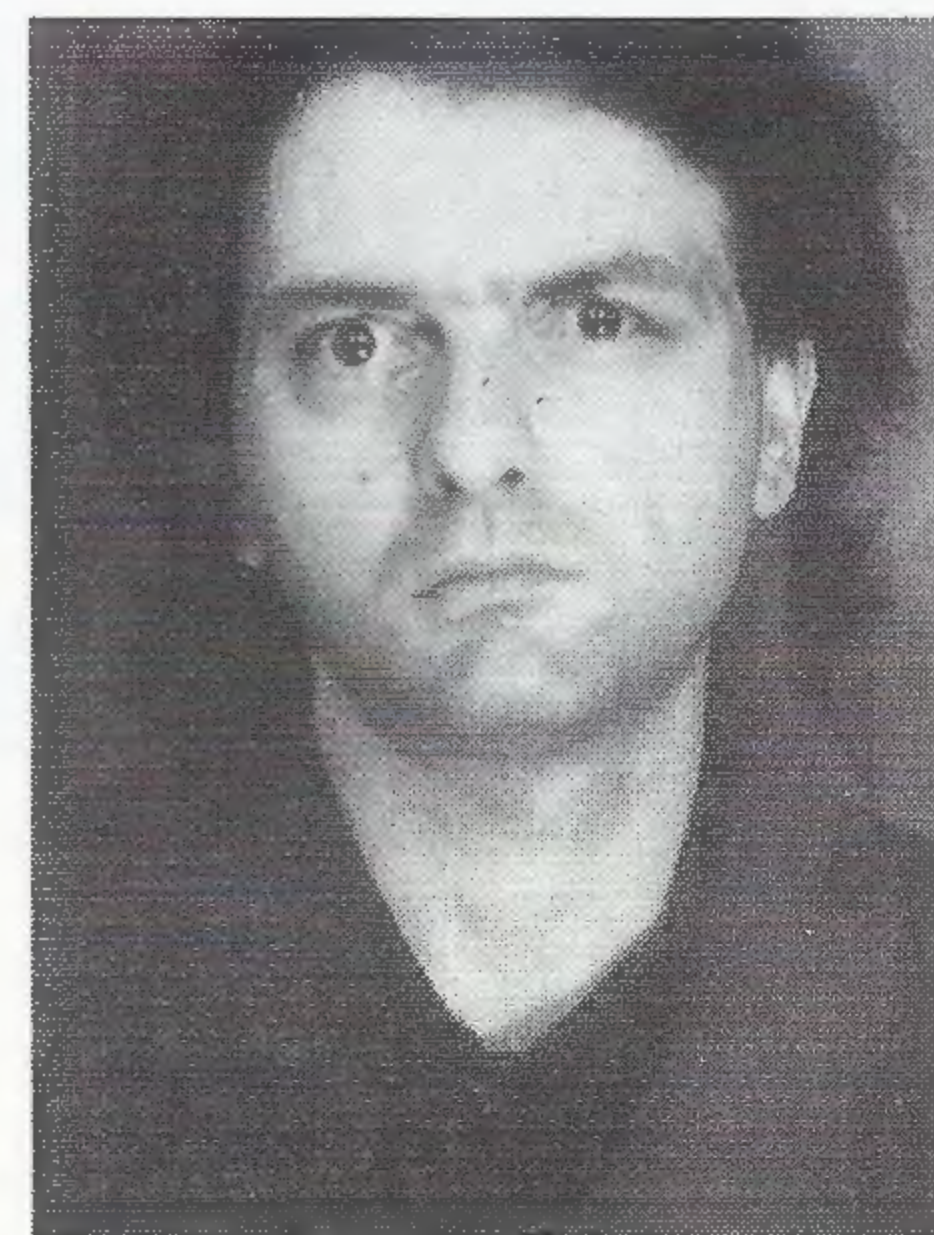
SIS TRADE NETWORK

...and speaking of Networks (ooh, these links are so smooth you could spread 'em!), the Trade Network list, as it stands at the moment, is now available to anyone who would like a copy. Skills & professions range from chartered accountants to poets(!) but we'd still like the list to expand a lot further, so if you'd like to have your details included in case you think another subscriber may one day be in need of your (ahem!) services, drop me a line.

Some of you may have noticed that a recent edition of the Sunday People's 'Yes!' magazine featured a chart of '101 All-Time Favourite Records'. In order to compile this the People say they 'scoured the country for lists of all time favourites, checked opinion polls, sales figures and record plays' and fed the whole lot into their computer to come up with the 'definitive chart'. I'm sure that you, like me, immediately cast your eye down the list to see where Golden Brown was featured, and indeed there it was at No. 45. The paper described it as "the groups' biggest hit, even if singing about heroin did upset a few people!"

DEAD RINGERS

Well a grand total of one Stranglers 'lookalike' arrived following the launch of Dead Ringers corner in Strangled 39 - either none of you even faintly resemble any of the band past or present or you do and you're too ashamed to admit it! This is 'Riff' Riffat - who wonders if he may possibly be a doppelgänger for H. Cornwell Esq. - hmmm.....



DECEMBER TOUR DATES 1993

Literally days before the gig at Fontwell Park on October 30th news came through that the band had been asked to play some further UK tour dates in December. These have now been confirmed, and unless any last-minute changes are made the dates are scheduled as follows:

| | | |
|----|---------------|---------------------------|
| 3 | Nottingham | Rock City |
| 4 | Cardiff | University |
| 5 | Liverpool | Royal Court |
| 6 | Manchester | Academy |
| 7 | off | |
| 8 | Norwich | University of East Anglia |
| 9 | Leicester | De Monfort University |
| 10 | off | |
| 11 | London | Forum |
| 12 | Ilford | Island |
| 13 | Folkestone | Leascliffe Hall |
| 14 | Worcester | Northwick Theatre |
| 15 | Leeds | T & C |
| 16 | Glasgow | Barrowlands |
| 17 | Wolverhampton | Civic |

IT'S A KNOCKOUT!

In October JJ's karate club Shidokan Great Britain competed in the British Karate Kyokushinkai 18th National Knockdown Open tournament at Crystal Palace. The standard of karate was very high, with fighters from all over the world including Russia. There were eight Shidokan fighters present, four from Great Britain (one of whom is subscriber Vinny McGrath) and four from France. Three fighters made it to the quarter finals. JJ and Vinny hope to compete in the London Open tournament next March.

Two Strangers in the Night

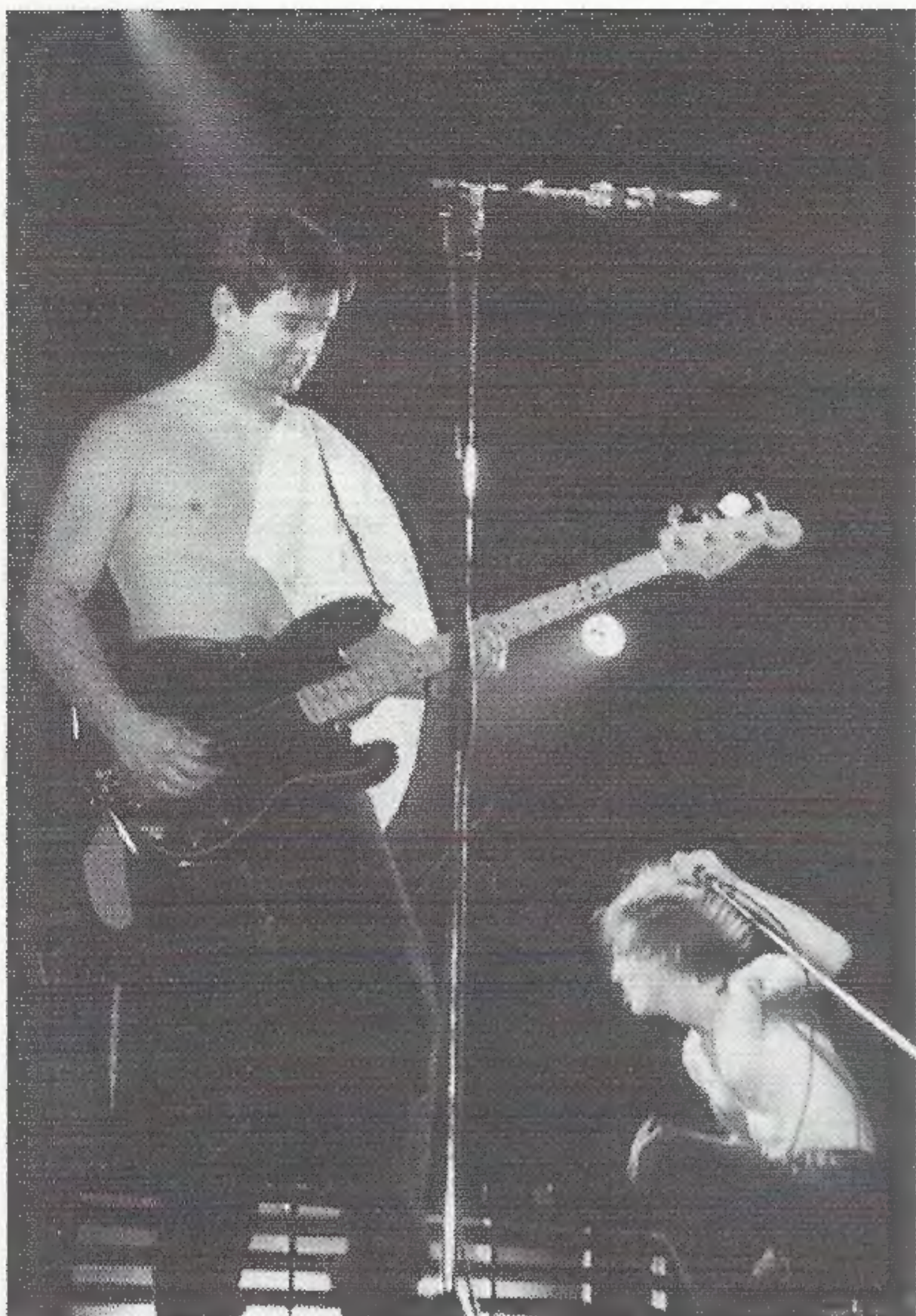


Photo: Dave Lingley

Those of you living in the Meridian TV area in the south of England may well have been convinced that you were seeing hallucinations if you were burning the midnight oil and watching the TV on Sunday 24th October but I'm here to tell you that your eyes weren't deceiving you - that was indeed Paul and JJ making a guest appearance on Graham Rogers' late night TV spot. They were down South on a whistle-stop promotional trip prior to the gig at Fontwell, and were, I'm told, so entertaining that they got about three times as much air time as Graham's guests are usually allocated (as Tom & Jerry's mate Spike might say "Dat's ma boys!") A big thanks to Graham for what was, for Paul & JJ, a really enjoyable interview and visit to Meridian.

SIS GO PUBLIC

On 27th and 28th November the Wembley Rock n' Pop Fair took place at the Wembley Conference and Exhibition Centre. The event was in association with Vox magazine and Capital Radio. SIS was among the vast number of dealers and the odd artist info. service or two (and let's face it, you don't get much odder than us!) who had stalls there. We hope to be able to have representatives at similar events in the future to let anyone who isn't particularly au fait with the many works of the MIB know what they're missing.

BLACKMAIL CORNER

Well I warned him, but he didn't come up with the readies, so here it is - is that the sniggering of the other 4 Strangers I hear? Well, me laddos, I have a file containing equally toe-curlingly awful pics of all of you too, so you know the drill - enough dosh to buy me that little villa in Tenerife or my next victim will be revealed in all his shameless glory in *Strangled* 41 - I'm waiting



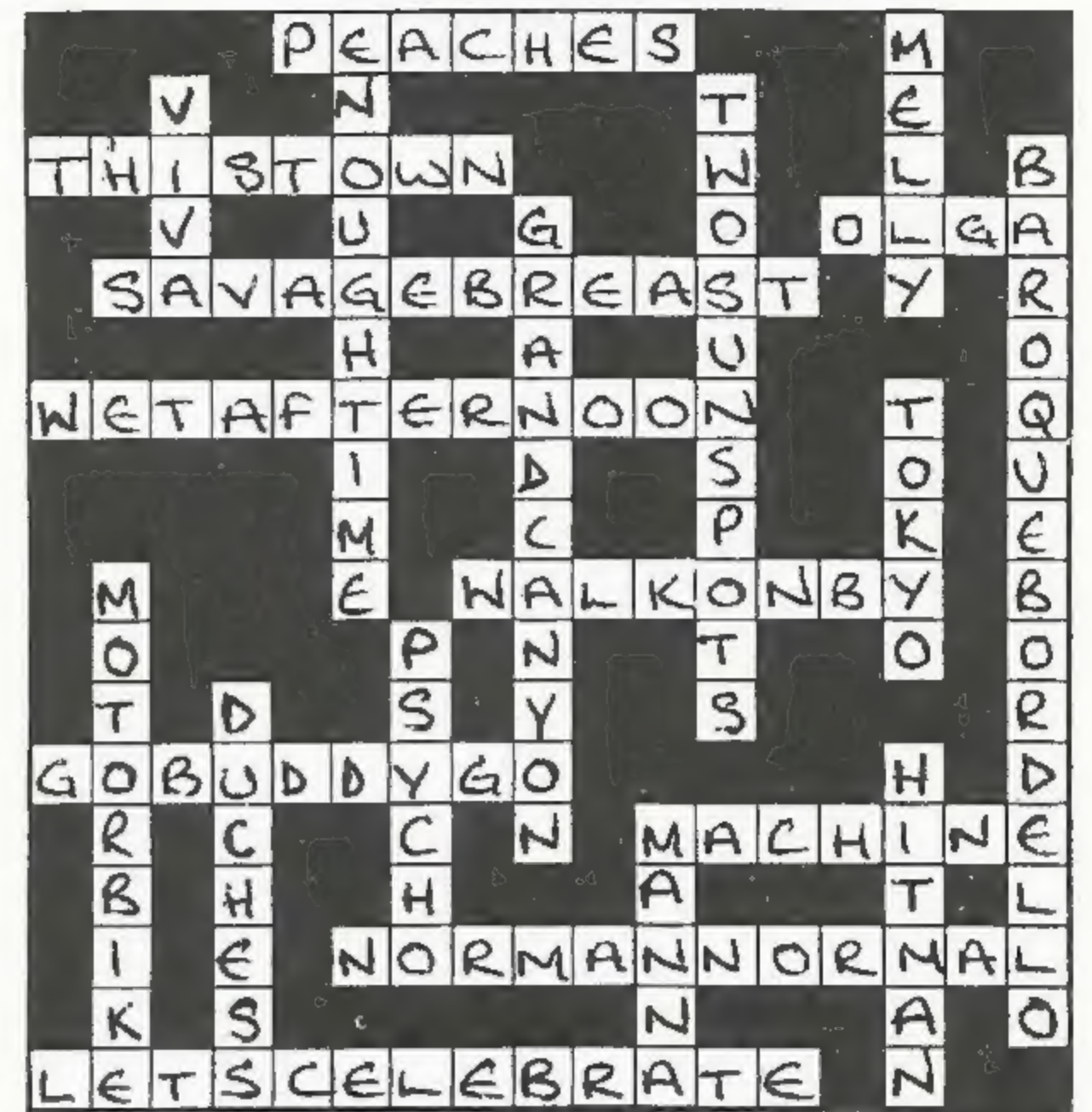
Photo: Lloyd Spank

JE'S UN-CONVENTION-AL POSTER

John has now completed the preparation of art work for the poster he's been designing, featuring the happy smiling faces belonging to those convention attendees who brought photos with them for inclusion. At this stage, we just need to know, to an exact a figure as possible, how many of you will be interested in buying one (be warned, the band's own photo booth mugshots will be dotted among the throng!) so we can determine the size of the print run and accordingly set a price (we aim to keep this as reasonable as possible). John & SIS would be grateful, therefore, if everyone who has allocated a space on their wall for this never-to-be-repeated objet d'art could write to SIS with an SAE marked 'poster' (or 'JE's poster' or 'JE's bloody great humungous convention poster' if you wish - just as long as its clear what you're after!) indicating whether you'd be interested in one or more (for those who brought friends with them) and as soon as details are confirmed we'll write and let you know so that you can place your orders. John thought it would be a nice idea for each poster to be individually numbered and signed by all the band - I think you'd probably agree.

COMPETITION RESULTS

Solution to Donald Mackay's puzzle (*Strangled* 39). A Bravado T-shirt goes to I. C. Bruss of Salisbury.



Strangers Trivia Quiz

Nobody got a full house on this one, but joint winners with the remarkably high scores of 23 out of a possible 26 (taking into account multiple answer questions such as 1 and 5 etc.) are Clive Medlicott, Birmingham, Paul Edwards, Abergaveny and Kenny Lean, Midlo'thian (Yes Kenny, you may well have headed your entry (The Strangers Bastard Trivia Quiz!). All 3 win a £20 merchandise voucher and a year's free subscription to *Strangled*.

1. Fuck, slum, Trotsky.
2. The Rodon Club, Athens, Greece.
3. The Rainbow in 1980 when Hugh was in Pentonville.
4. Dingwalls, North London.
5. Shakespearos, Old Codgers, Bingo Nightly with the O.A.P.s.
6. Amsterdam.
7. 'Dead on Arrival'.
8. Trick question, it was *always* The Gospel According To The Meninblack.
9. F48444.
10. The Drones.
11. The Raven Lunatic.
12. Freezer.
13. Marvin Gaye
14. (In Celebration Of) The European Female.
15. Alex Gifford, Chris Lawrence, Richard Sidwell.
16. 'Seeing is Believing'
18. X-Mal Deutschland or Hurrah (either acceptable as they both supported on part of the tour.
19. S.O.S. This is planet earth. We are fucked. Please advise.
20. Bren Gun.

PRIZE DRAW

The freebie, compliments of SIS, for prompt sub renewal goes this issue to Janice Abernethy of Greenock Scotland. A t-shirt-shaped 'thanks' is winging its way to you Janice.



As there has been a relatively short space of time between this issue of *Strangled* and the last, we thought that it was unlikely that you'd have managed to lose the merchandise photo sheet that came with No. 39 already! Rather than throwing yet more unnecessary paper at you, just the order form (featuring all the new items listed below) is enclosed this time around. If anyone *has* lost track of their merch. photo sheet and would like another to jog their memory about our vast array(!) of goods, just drop a line to SIS with an S.A.E. and one will be forwarded by return of post.

Many ta's to everyone who wrote in with suggestions for future SIS merchandise. All your ideas will be carefully considered (yes, even your idea, Ms. 'Let's have some inflatable dolls'! In fact, *particularly* your idea!) Overall, it emerged that videos/recorded material are the most sought after items on the current order form, closely followed by watches, shirts & mugs, so, as your wish is SIS's command (well, where humanly possible anyway) the new items which I'm pleased to introduce to the range with this issue are:

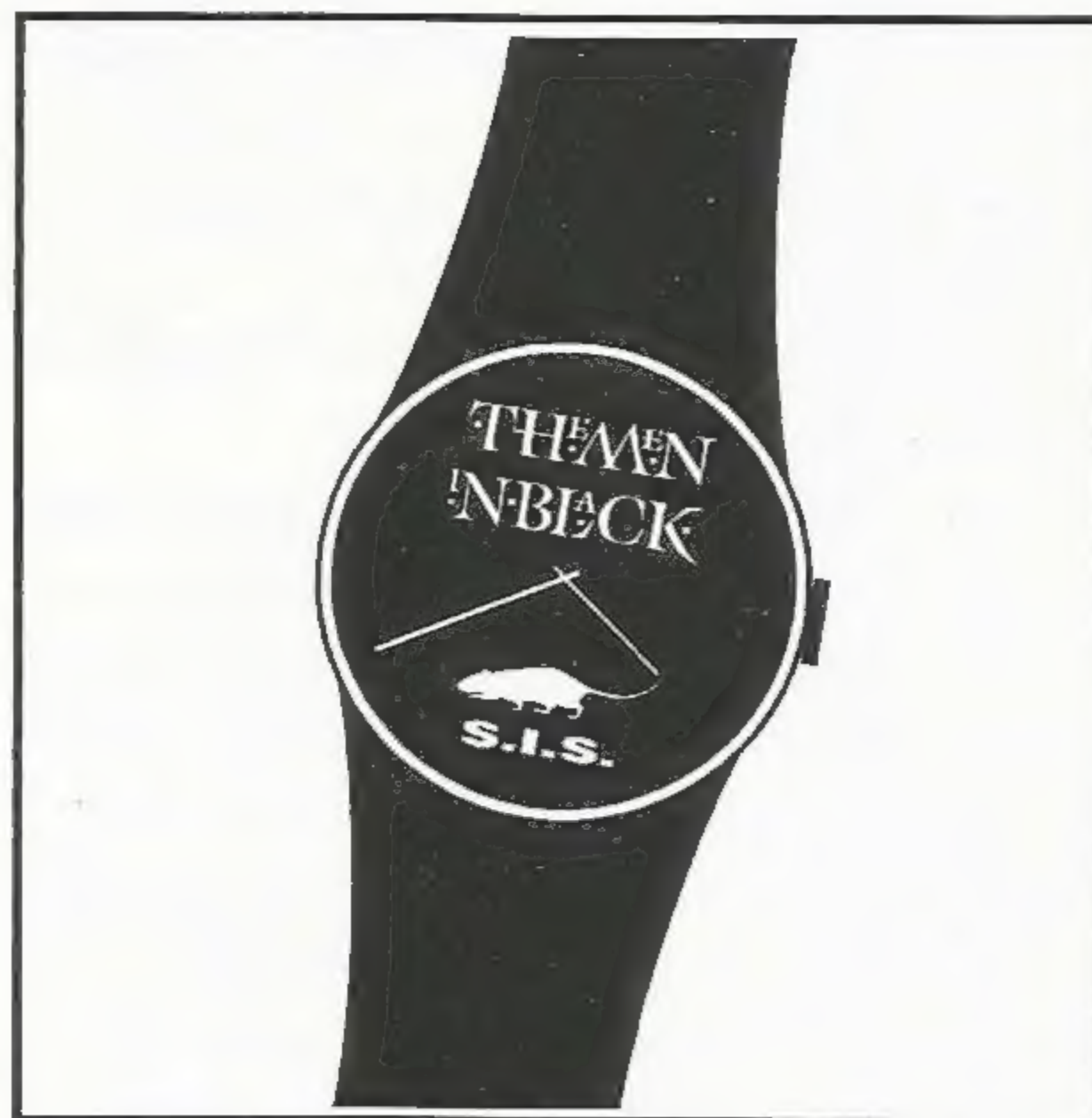
NEW VIDEO - THE STRANGLERS LIVE AT FONTWELL PARK

Filmed for SIS by Steve Flambert and Howard Alleway, this video captures in dramatic detail the band's electrifying gig at Fontwell in October '93. Excepting one track only ('This God Is Mine', which we are unable to put out before the release of the next album) this is the full gig, shot directly in front of (and, at times, actually on!) the stage, and for me personally is *the* live recording of the Stranglers MkII that I've been waiting for (ever wondered what the view is like from *behind* Dave's keyboard set-up? Well now's your chance to find out!) Running time is approximately 1½ hours and the price is **£16 (UK) £18 (Europe)** (NB. I *can* supply videos to worldwide locations but please bear in mind that as our videos are available in VHS format only you'll need convert them to NTSC before you can view them - drop me a line if you're interested and I'll provide details of price inc. P&P for your postal zone).

NEW DESIGN WATCHES

The Psycho eyes design has now been discontinued and has been replaced by a brand new design, available now. Featuring the Meninblack logo in white on a black background, with the rat and SIS logo in red (watch hands are

also red) this is quite a stylish little timepiece (although we say it ourselves!). Price is **£19.50 (UK), £23.50 (Europe), £26 (WW)**.



STRANGLERS 1994 CALENDAR

As the band have been somewhat active (to say the least!) on the touring front this year, they've scarcely had time to get home for a change of socks, let alone pose for a lengthy photo session! We've therefore decided that the calendar for '94 will be in A2 poster format, and feature a montage of b/w shots surrounding a special '20th Anniversary' logo (designed by, you guessed it - Simon Webb - we've certainly made him work this year!) with the calendar dates surrounding that as a border to the poster. As the calendar is still in production at the time of going to press, we can't show a picture of it here, but my printers assure me that it's going to be on heavy quality paper with mauve tones contrasting with the b/w pics & it's gonna be luvverly! Price is **£5.00 (UK), £6.00 (Europe), £7.00 (WW)**.

EMBROIDERED SWEATSHIRTS

Along with our embroidered polo and rugby shirts we have now re-introduced the embroidered sweatshirts (as I've received many letters demanding to know why they ever went away!). The sweatshirts are available in sizes M, L and XL, in a choice of black or **new this issue, grey**, and I'm pleased to announce that along with the rat, raven, feline and meninblack logos **the Stranglers logo is back!** Rugby, polo and sweatshirts can be embroidered with any of the 5 logos - don't forget to circle the logo that you require on the order form. Embroidered sweatshirts are **£16 (UK) £18 (Europe) and £20 (WW)**.

POLYPHONIC SIZE OUT - MAGIC DE SPELL IN

The Polyphonic Size CDs are now well and truly out of stock. We still have copies of Dani's 'N Comme Never Again', and new with this issue we are also able to offer copies of 'Holiday in Sarajevo' - the new CD by Magic de Spell produced by JJ (see his article on

page 8). The band supported the Stranglers on their recent dates in Greece, and JJ describes the album as an intriguing amalgam of styles which which he feels sure would appeal to fans of the Stranglers (he also added that it could prove a useful aid for anyone wanting to improve their Greek!). As with our other imported Stranglers-related productions, the price of the Magic de Spell CD is **£10.50 (UK), £11.50 (Europe)** and a new lower rate of **£13.50 (WW)**.

FORTHCOMING

And lo, when the month of September, which is also known as 'the time of the Convention', was nearly upon us, those on whose shoulders fell the heavy task of putting the whole thing together went forth and hired a company of a 'professional' rank to film the mirth and merriment, that would undoubtedly be the order of the day, on that most wonderous of inventions - the 'video camera'. And yes, mirth and merriment was *indeed* heard to ring from the very heart of New Cross on that memorable occasion, and yes, when the video master finally arrived on the SIS doormat it *did* look and sound as though it had been shot through a very thick pair of thermals (every silver lining has a bloody cloud doesn't it?). What to do? Well, apart from screaming obscenities and pacing up and down the room wringing my hands (*that* I achieved quite spontaneously) I took a few deep breaths and sat down to watch the tape again. All was not lost - I realized that although I wasn't sufficiently happy with the overall quality of the recording to put out a 'Convention video' in its own right, there was certainly enough watchable footage of some of the memorable moments to put together as a montage to be included as *part* of a video release, and our next video will therefore comprise: The 30 minute Rennes recording (mentioned in *Strangled* 39); around 30 minutes of Convention highlights, including Jet's forum, karaoke clips and, of course, 'Old Codger'; The promo video of Dani's first single release from 'N Comme...' - the track written by JJ 'Et Pourtant' and possibly one or two other items of interest. This will almost certainly be ready before *Strangled* 41 is out, so if anyone is interested in obtaining this release as soon as it's available, just send in an SAE marked 'Rennes' and I'll forward information re. price etc. as soon as details are confirmed.

It may cheer you to know that it was the let down over the video of the Convention gig that prompted me to commission the filming of Fontwell Park (and the guys hired for that job *really* knew their stuff), as well as the fact that there was so much new material scattered throughout the Convention set that we wouldn't have been able to issue the gig for some time anyway - hope that soothes the pain a little!

STRANGLERS AT FONTWELL RACECOURSE

Hard Going, But The Seasoned Favourite Romped Home In Style

Initially the going looked good to soft and a number of seasoned jumpers and vaguely interesting fillies were ready for the off at Fontwell Race Track on Hallowe'en.

Under the starters orders of Ranking, Shanking MC Trooper local Bognor boys X-Axis opened the show with their slices of three chord brain damage. Stuck in 1978 the 4-man unit, fronted by a bandannad Stevie Ray Vaughn lookalike, crunched through a set of punk originals including their single 'Wild Bunch'. The climax of their tenure came with a sterling rendition of the Ruts classic 'In A Rut'.

Still together after 17 years Nick Cash & his 999 acolytes banged through their own greatest hits catalogue & even treated us to a few new ones as well. Bouncing around like a demented Danny Devito on speed (the years have not been kind to Mr Cash) Nick presented us much to singalong with from a breakneck 'Nasty Nasty' to a leaden 'Feeling Alright With The Crew' and the crowd pleasing top 40 hit 'Homicide'.



999

They also treated the still half empty tent to a few cuts from the new album 'You Us It' featuring pretty much the same sort of tunes you loved from the debut album. They were unfortunately instantly forgettable as all I can visualise is the steam pouring off Cash's head & the trademark leather jacket collar turned up of the guitarist.

The field began to look weak & the going tough with the next act, Joe Blo. Promoters do not know the nature of the beast when they put a Heavy Metal band on the same bill as the Stranglers. Although sporting good bloodstock, featuring members of Roger Taylor's 'The Cross', the trio put nobody at ease with their interminable axe solos and were redeemed only by a gutsy R&B rendition of the Them

classic 'Baby Please Don't Go'.

Those trashcan psychobillies Frenzy were the penultimate act and added weight to the adage that mixed music bills don't work after the HM riffola of Joe Blo. Even the bar staff winced as they played crass rock 'n' roll that you can only do the chicken dance to.

Then the Super Tent Big Top began to swell with Stranglers fans, eagerly awaiting their 'last UK gig of the year and ting' according to our dubwise reggae MC.

But why a tent in the middle of nowhere? JJ explained to me before the show.

"It was mentioned in the summer & we didn't do anything about it and then a month ago we were asked for a decision - we thought it was quite a funky idea and I like off-the-wall ideas. We played a few European festivals this year in tents - even in local town festivals".

"The idea was if it's successful tonight they will do it on an annual basis because the south coast is a graveyard for bands, there are very few venues down here and they're mainly run by older people".

The Meninblack had started their south coast soiree during the week with a brace of promotional shenanigans including lashing themselves together, half-naked, and frightening the locals at Portsmouth's Port Solent Marina.

Stirring up the crowd MC Trooper ushered the band with an 'excess amount of hits' onto the stage, launching straight into the rarely performed 'Feline' cut, 'Midnight Summer Dream'. John Ellis set the tone for his mood that evening, deftly sidestepping a glass propelled from the audience with nary so much as a flinch.

The early part of the set consisted of later tracks from 10's 'Someone Like You' to 'In The Night's 'Southern Mountains', 'Time To Die' and a storming mega funk version of 'Never See' - the way forward for the boys in my opinion. This was confirmed by an excellent new song 'This God Is Mine' featuring that crucial instrument in this age of technology - the maracas!

With no Jet tonight, the drum stool was ably filled by Paul's mate Tim Bruce. As another one of his mates was doing the video taping, I wondered if



Roberts' Lads Inc. were also doing the catering and security!

Paul's blond mop & taut 'Iggy Pop' style torso were already into

overdrive at the halfway stage after storming renditions of '96 Tears', 'Toiler', 'I Feel Like A Wog' and at this temple for the tic-tac man, a perfectly relevant 'Uptown'.

The inevitable attempted stage invasion took place during 'All Day and All Of The Night' as several geezers took their life in their hands balancing on the guard rail and thence into the press pit and onto the Stranglers handicapped fans enjoying the show - watch where you're moshing next time, lads.

Further early cuts followed including 'London Ladies' with JJ's thudding barracuda bass & lastly 'Hanging Around' at which point they left the stage to return with the first encore of 'Strange Little Girl', 'Duchess' and a rousing, animated 'Tank'.

The second encore saw a 'pinky & perky' version of 'Always The Sun', according to Paul, and a superb version of 'No More Heroes' to place the Stranglers in the winners enclosure.

And finally, the results of the 3pm at Fontwell:

Odds-on favourites, romp home in style - The Stranglers

Impressive second, despite maturity - 999

Rank outsider coming in third - X-Axis

Fell at the first fence - Joe Blo

Broke leg in paddock - Frenzy

10pm Bar, cheers!

Paul 'PeeJay' Jenner



Torsos and tambourines - Paul!

DIARY OF A PRODUCER

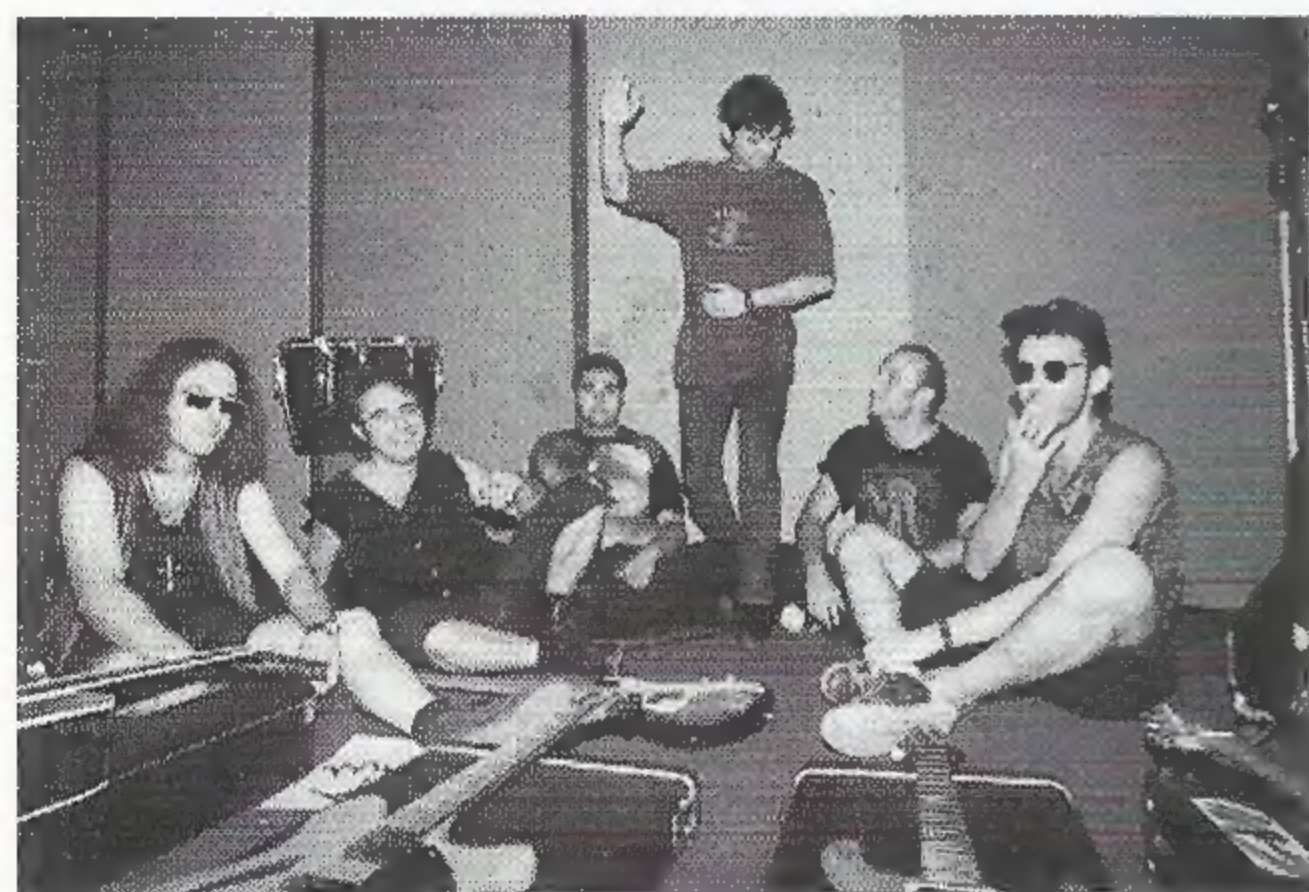
J.J. was asked to provide some liner/inner sleeve notes for the Magic de Spell album, which he produced during the summer/autumn months this year. Released by Warner Bros. Greece in November.

Late November 1992

After a concert at the famous Rodon Club in Athens introduced to tall fucker who looks like Lucifer. His name is Elias. He does Karate too. Likes what I've been doing all these years - (good man!) Sings in a band called Magic De Spell - well; we've all got to have a name, haven't we? We agree to meet for an interview on Karate for Budo Magazine the following day. We seem to talk for hours. I return to London with Magic De Spell records on vinyl. Don't have a record player!

Start receiving cassettes from Elias, band rehearsals, ideas, demos etc. Realise I've never heard Greek in this way before. Sounds fresh and exotic and I promise myself to find out what Malakas means, since this word appears in every other sentence I hear spoken. I ask Elias to get the band to write some more material.

April 1993. Agree to visit Athens to see M.D.S. rehearse. London is cold, wet, windy and grey Athens warm, dry, blue sky. Meet the band. Theo on drums, Nik 1 on keys, Nik 2 on guitars, Nik 3 on bass. Can't remember which number have given to which



Nik so decide on renaming them, Nik "Am I?" on keys, Nik Ketchup on guitars and Animal on bass. Discuss arrangements, method of working etc. Visit Action Studios. Agree to record an album in July.

During visit to the States in June play M.D.S. rough cassette to a few Americans. They are genuinely surprised. I ask them why should Americans or even British have virtual monopoly on rock? No reason.

July 1993. Record most of the album in just under two weeks. By my calculations we've really done six weeks work. Fall asleep at the mixing console. Have never recorded a whole album with no shirt on. Is this a record? The band like to discuss points. I prefer to send in the tanks. Somehow we agree on most things! Recording can be a family affair in Greece. Am deeply in love with all their wives, girlfriends etc. Am I turning Greek? After all it is a state of mind. Hellenic, that is.

August 1993. Lille. Elias, Gorgeous

George (the engineer) and myself. Mix album in five days in Lille. Flemish town, Northern France on the border with Belgium. Weather fresh.

September 1993 Athens Back to Action Studios for remixes. We know the material as if we were sleeping with it - (which of course is what we're doing in fact).



Surrounded by some members of the Greek record company demonstrating some typical Greek habits?

One last Souvlaki, one last bottle of Macedonian white wine (is Greek, will always be Greek!) And go from 35°C to 14°C in 4½ hours.

When do you want me back?!

I love this album. And I know what the songs are about. Although I don't know how well the subjects are dealt with. That will be something for the public to decide. Released in November 1993. Exactly a year for the seed to become a living tree. For a Rocker from Northern Western Europe to meet and work with Rockers from South Eastern Europe this is a Greek album and a European album.

Poly Kala

Jean-Jacques Burnel

TRIVIA QUIZ - THE SEQUEL

He made you suffer in the last issue and we see absolutely no reason why you shouldn't suffer once more. Yes Owen has been at it again - and he's found another brain mangling 20 questions to separate the dedicated from the dilettantes - go to it and don't spare the ink! Closing date 31st January 1994.

1. What country was "Bear Cage" written about?
2. What was the original title of "The Collection" album?
3. Who was the Grainger Man mentioned in "Bitching"?
4. Name the support acts at the infamous Battersea Park gig in 1978.
5. Name the journalist who was abandoned in the middle of the Portuguese desert during the filming of the "Nuclear Device" video.
6. In 1991, how many gigs did the Stranglers play as support to Simple Minds are where were they?
7. Name John Ellis' band who supported on JJ's "Euroman" tour in 1979.
8. Prior to 1993, when was the last time that "English Towns" was played live?
9. How many gigs were there on the UK "10" tour?
10. Journalist Ronnie Gurr was kidnapped by JJ and the Finchley Boys on which gig of the "Euroman" tour?
11. What is Hugh's middle name?
12. The lyrics on "Time To Die" were taken from the dialogue in which film? Who spoke the lines in the film?
13. How many times have the Stranglers toured Japan and when?
14. Name the three UK gigs on the first part of the "Black and White" tour.
15. Where was the first Purple Helmets gig ever? And in which year?
16. In which city was "The Raven" recorded?
17. Name the Japanese student who killed and ate his girlfriend in Paris, inspiring the song "La Folie".
18. Which painting was retouched for "The Meninblack" album?
19. Who sang the vocals on "Rain & Dole & Tea"?
20. Who was the Circus Barker (a.k.a. Duncan Poundcake) who 'sang' vocals on "Wrong Way Round" on Hugh's "Nosferatu" album?

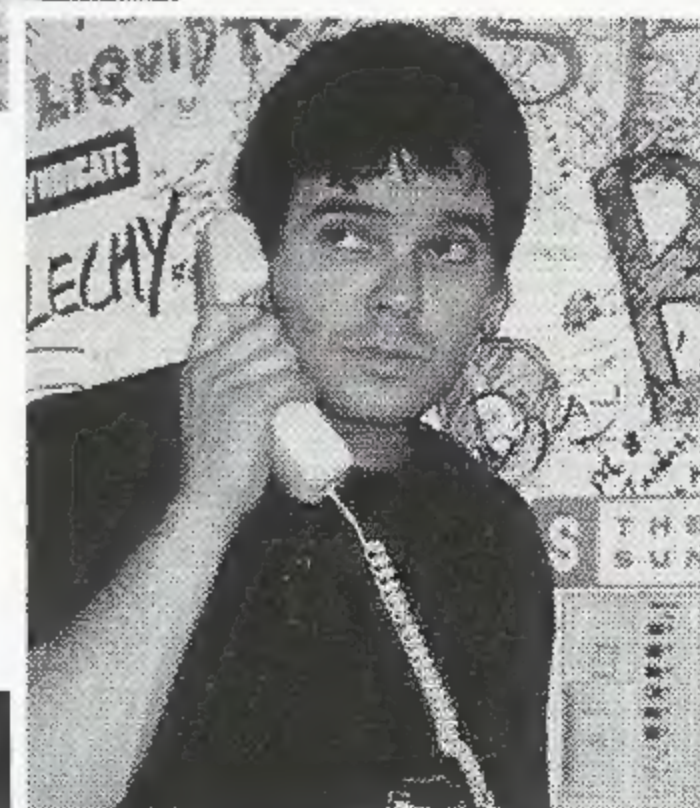
Caption Competition

"So I said to him . . ."
"Ooh, you never did!"



Get those wicked imaginations working and let us know what you think is being said

during this intriguing telephone discussion. T-shirts will go to the best 3,



which will be printed in Strangled 41.

Photos:
Nanae Takatsuka
& John Ellis

I DUNNO, LADS EH?

(A fly on the wall documentary)

"So Paul", I said, "howsabout a nice little article from you asking the band and crew to recount a few cherished memories about life on the road? And Sil in particular - I'm sure he's got a little more information to divulge about his role in the scheme of things, particularly since he's now Tour Manager". "What's in it for me?" he asked, off handedly. "Erm, I think SIS can run to a quarter pound of jelly babies (all Chippendale replicas - more jelly and no nasty brain to munch through) and a copy of the Peoples Friend Christmas annual". His eyes visibly lit up. "Great! Sounds like a good deal to me" he said "Got a list of questions to get the conversation started?" "Yep" I said, handing them over. "So, when do you think you'll do the interview?" "Oh, I think I'll do it when we play the two Greek gigs this weekend, in the bar probably, when everyone's getting stinking drunk". Oh lawdy, what had I done?!!..... M.

Author's instruction: Stick tongue slightly into cheek and read....

PR: So what's it like changing from Production Manager to Tour Manager?

Sil: Well, having done the P. Management for 5 years, I have a good insight into the production and technical side and also know what each member expects and can therefore slip into the job quite comfortably and easily. Tour managing is essentially realizing the characteristics of each individual and trying to accommodate them all on the road (oo-err, all at once Sil? - P.) because it's a long and arduous day. It's not all fun on the road!!! For example, with it comes many responsibilities such as getting dosh out of promoters! I can think of once when after being hit with a £600 bill for a crayfish dinner (7 people, nice one JJ) as opposed to lobster, we then had to turn the promoter upside down for the loot and did not allow the band onstage until he paid up. Meanwhile our agent was onstage trying to decide how many punters were in 'cause the promoter was lying! (ie. claiming that there were only 2.5 thousand people there when it was obvious there were about 5,000, to try and increase his profit). Ironically, everyone who ate seafood that night was ill, in fact, JE



Oo's a pretty boy, den?

had a bucket on stage!

JE: What's your main function in terms of the band on the road, just making the show happen or...

Sil: Yeah, well let's just say my favourite song is always the last one of the set...

PR: Whatever it is!

Sil: Yes! But that just means that everything is done, we made it! Plus the day is over.

PR: Other functions also include punishing me for my violent mike technique by putting out an old bent stand at the start of a show...

Sil: Yes, and superglueing your water down and not forgetting your pink Mickey Mouse tambourine in Japan.

PR: Very important stuff.

Sil: Oh, and Bruce cutting JJ's strap as well! (Eds. note. - once during a gig JJ's guitar strap broke, quite accidentally, due to normal wear & tear, and the running joke for ever afterwards, was that one of the others was going to tell JJ that Bruce had deliberately sliced through the strap as an act of sabotage before the band went on stage, and then watch Bruce suffer the consequences!)

JE: Do you find it frustrating working behind the scenes rather than in a performing mode? Bearing in mind you have done that side of it too...

Sil: I have now resigned myself to the fact that I enjoy it and therefore fulfil my 'showbiz' needs in this way. I also have a very cynical view of the business.

PR: But not many people do, do they?!!!

Sil: Anyway, this job fulfils my needs!

JE: What's the hardest thing to deal with? Is it keyboards, for example?.....

Sil: The hardest job is getting access to stage for everyone whilst working in an ergonomic position. Also siting lights and PA, fault finding during a gig.

DG: Getting the right balance of Bacardi and Code.

PR: Warming my water correctly. Is respect for support bands important to you?

Sil: Well, having a musical background I feel it's very important to have some time for them, having been in that situation myself because you never know, 'today's support could be tomorrow's stars'!

PR: Yeah, and on the way up they might step on you on your way down, and there are a few I could name like.....ouch! (Paul has obviously been whumped by someone at this point, but names cannot be revealed, to protect the guilty). You've been known as a bit of hell raiser Sil, so let's

hear a bit more shall we kids? Let me jog your anal memory!

Sil: Well, unfortunately these things don't just happen on the road.

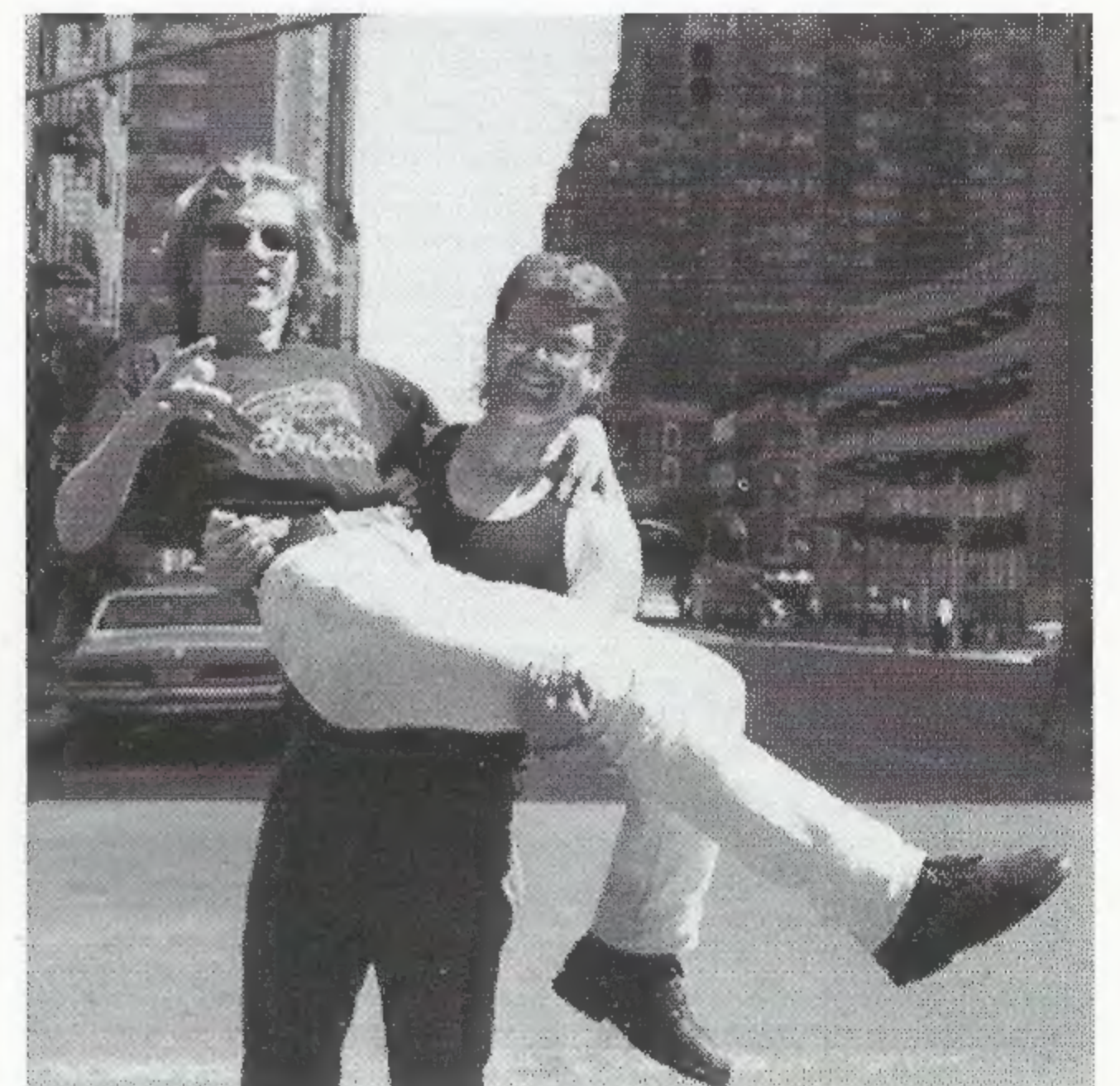
PR: Ah, you mean New Years Day, when you gave 5 local landlords a 'blow job'?

Sil: Ah, yes well, mmm, the last guy was 55-60 and had to be held down, so you know, life doesn't just stop when you're off the road!

PR: Yes Sil, we know - but what about on the road in Athens?

Sil: Yes, the expensive nightclub/restaurant where I was having fresh ketchup poured down the crack of my bottom whilst mopping it up with a bread roll and eating it while singing 'Always The Sun'.

PR: Yes, with a pink chrysanthemum in your ear! This was talked about for 2 months afterwards I was told! Also, what about the day at the Acropolis



He aint heavy he's my singer. Tom the tour bus driver gives Paul a little lift.

where you insisted on a parting (yuk!) photo shot of the historic site with your arse in it, and upon setting off you were approached by an irate Greek guard who produced a gun and stole the film!

Sil: He was a nasty man, but these people are very red blooded! Also, I had a bit of a problem with the man who owned the Zafolia Hotel (what, like a £120 extras bill from '92? - P.) but luckily he's dead now (uncontrollable laughter)

PR: But I saw him today Sil.

JE: What about the time you nearly torched a tour bus?

Sil: Ah yes, Alan Spriggs (one time T. Mgr.). He never agreed with my estimations of comfort needed for the crew on the tour and due to his penny pinching antics he was sent around England with six buses in 9 days (6, because each time one was sent we sent it right back for being too uncomfortable!) and the crew were seen outside Wolverhampton Civic Hall standing beside the last bus shouting "TORCH THE BUS, IT'S A WITCH!"

PR: And there was the incident with your Russian visa...

Sil: My work visa was 'lost' on the way, and I was told by Bill Tuckey "Well, we've got you a new visa Sil!"

PR: Yeah, but he never told you that you may have to dye your hair blond and wear blue contact lenses did he?!

Sil: No, and so he produces this lovely shot of our English truck driver, who's visa it actually was!

PR: But he did get his come uppance as we were leaving, because umpteen thousand dollars of tour-generated money, tickets, travel documents, in fact *everything* that was essential for the band while touring, had mysteriously disappeared from 'his' case. I witnessed every second of it, it was like a situation comedy. Bill confidently opened the case, and then quickly snapped it shut with an expression of sheer dismay after viewing the contents, while looking around the port and mumbling "oh no, I don't believe this!". He opened it again twice, more slowly each time and peered in, almost in the hope that his eyes had been deceiving him in the first instance and everything was OK after all. They weren't and it wasn't, and two times he snapped the case shut again!. We had two minutes to get on a hydrofoil! Anyway, it turned out that *our* case had somehow got mixed up with the Leningrad Cowboys' tour manager's case, and they were swapped back after the mistake was discovered in the nick of time, so we escaped (me very white having been convinced at first that we'd been the victims of some kind of espionage) and lived to pay another fare. In fact, Sil, we all got shit faced on that hydrofoil and you gave the stewardess a 20p coin to pay for everything, in your persuasive manner, and she took 2 hours to realize you had completely conned her! You aren't the only one though. Remember after an arduous and long restaurant session with a totally rude and unhelpful waiter in Switzerland, Jet asked for a mixed ice-cream. Simple huh? Well, the by now, irate waiter was offering a *book* of fancy ice-cream ideas and did not want to understand "a plate of mixed ice-cream", so eventually Jet says, "Look, do you have vanilla?" "Yes" came the answer. "Strawberry?" "Yes" "Chocolate?" "Yes." "Well.....fucking well mix it up then!" I hate to think what else went into it...

Sil: I remember once on a Sunday walking into the lobby of this hotel in England and Hugh screaming down the stairs "Where's my Guardian supplement? Someone has stolen it - this is disgusting! rant rant etc. etc.!!" and the porter says "I'm sorry sir, but the Guardian supplement comes out on a



Paul and Sil, busily - er, um, well, perhaps it's best not to think about it.

Saturday"!

PR: For more, see "Scenes I Have Seen" by A. Pop Band! So everyone, tell us about the best and worst hotels you have encountered.

JE: Several in Europe!

PR: You mean suicide hotels?

JE: Yes, like that one in Ris Orangis - grey stained. I ran a bath which turned cold after 8" of water, dirt and stains everywhere. I went to the bar for some peanuts and ended up with an old orange juice jar with a handful of peanuts in dust which looked mottled and the barman enthused "Zees must be two years old!" I asked for Perrier and got tonic water - that was fucking horrible! Oh, and the TV had one channel.

PR: Yeah, I remember that. I stayed at the Hilton that night.....ouch! What about Estonia, the hotel bar with no lighting and the toilets that smelt like a piss-artists' alleyway in the wrong side of town, a two and a half hour minimum connection time to England and no food - in fact we had to go to another hotel to eat!

Sil: Yes, Estonia. I could eat anything usually, but no way there! After a day and a half I was starving and got back to my room where I discovered Max had smuggled six Ginsters pasties in! Luxury.

PR: The next question on the list asks which was the weirdest gig we've ever done. Well, thanks to Alain Lahana, our old agent in France here... After driving for hours across from Bordeaux towards Saarbrücken/Alsace, with me and JJ pissed, we drove through one forest, across a small mountainous area of sorts, down a pass, through another forest, across some plains and eventually finding a tiny village we were confronted by a huge derelict red brick building with hardly any walls or roof which had apparently been an old glass factory! Anyway, we did a very odd soundcheck and went to our hotel (45 minutes away!). On our return the place was packed with 2-3,000 people and we did one of our best shows, where, I remember, some 'old faces' joined us on stage for a rousing version of 'Duchess'. What do you remember as the most enjoyable/interesting place?

Sil: Well, for me Russia was the most *unusual*(!), but Japan the most enjoyable - 100%! Due to the food and the fact that I could get hot sake 24 hours a day.

PR: Yes, but the US was an eye opener. I mean, there is always something to be enjoyed or experienced everywhere we've been.

JE: Japan was outrageous.

PR: It was a bit like being a kid in a sweetshop. You loved it, didn't you Dave? (Dave *hates* raw fish and also never really ventured outside the hotel!) The next question for us is 'who's the worst person to be on a tour bus with?'

Sil: Trevor Cronin (*Eds' note: an obnoxious Australian 'sound engineer'*

widely despised by all), a non-Drinker or the gay ventriloquist with the monkey (?)

PR: What, the one who sings out of tune?!

JE: Rod the US sound man. God could that man *snore*! We eventually banned him from the sleeping area to the back lounge.

PR: Me, 'cause I like boys, oh, and anyone who shits in the chemical bog! Number ones only people!

Dan: Paul and his amazing underwear. He had these three pairs of pants that used to appear in some very odd places after he had stashed them in his bunk!

PR: Oh yes, and anyone with a game-boy!! Next question - M. wondered if we would divulge to readers of *Strangled* what essential items we pack in our travel bags...

DG: Game boy.....ouch!

PR: Gun! (*presumably to shoot anyone playing on a game boy*).

DG: We had about 5 (gameboys) in America didn't we?

PR: AAAAARRGHHHHHHH!

JE: Well, it's a good chance to read. I like Dickens.

Dan: I like Dickings as well!

PR: I take clean underwear in case I get knocked down. Books I had on the last tour were, mmm, Rupert Thomson - *The Five Gates Of Hell*, Tom Wolfe - *The Right Stuff*, Martin Amis - *Times Arrow and More*. Not totally sure about this title, but still....

Sil: Torch! Vaseline for roadies' bottoms...

Dan: Yeah - torch!

PR: I wondered what all that noise was at night! Multi-purpose eh? - to see where you are going, to flash in my eyes on-stage and to boff people with?

Sil: Well, some people say, a-use talcum powder where others say a-use Vaseline - whatever's right for the job really.

PR: ????? Anyway, moving on. How long is it before homesickness starts?

DG: Depends what you are doing and where you are touring - it varies.

PR: Between how many days and months or weeks?

DG: I haven't really thought about that!

JE: A week or two.

PR: Never really - I'm not sure what it feels like. I mean, I miss certain people.

Sil: About a year!

PR: It's a pity Bruce isn't here, and Davy and Max...

Sil: Yeah, come back Gooding you baaastard!

PR: Where are you now Bruce?

Sil: Well, he's still in comedy - he's doing Ben Elton at the moment - ooerr, sounds a bit rude.

PR: Yeah, but *he* ain't as funny as *us*! How hard is it for you to 'switch off' after a tour?

DG: It's not!

PR: But you never switch on!

JE: It takes me about a week to normalize - at about 9 or 10 each night I start to get a bit...

PR: Smelly?

JE: No...

PR: Sweaty?

JE: NO..

PR: Ah, sleepy

JE: No, a bit fidgety.

PR: Maybe it's because you're still wearing the previous week's boxers?

DG: If I spend a day or two in bed after a long tour, do a bit of shopping...

PR: What, in bed?

DG: No, I get up first.

PR: Oh.

Sil: I get withdrawal symptoms of Bruce not giving me large vodkas, so I go down the pub!

PR: Yes, people think it's all hard work don't they Sil, but it's not, it's drinking as well.

Sil: Yeah. I've got my motto "Drinking is for life, not just for Christmas!"

PR: I think it's very difficult. I think that's why a lot of performers drink and drug and get depressed, because of that void you have to fill.

Sil: Well it's embarrassing as well, especially when you are sitting talking about where you have just been, what you did etc. and people around think you're bragging but you're just talking about work. I mean it, it's not all wonderful, travelling around the world, tired cold and hungry...so I've been told.

PR: It must be hard watching your mates suffer. Plus, you do forget things, don't you Sil?

Sil: What, such as me forgetting I've been married for 3 months and posting a birthday card to my wife under her maiden name?

PR: What do you think is the worst thing about being on the road?

JE: Belgium on a Sunday!

All: Any day!!

PR: Trying to sleep after a gig, and then having to get up really early and travel - you never really catch up with anything.

Sil: Yes, the travelling. I mean it's 50% of your day really.

PR: No sweet shops! The best aspects are food, experiencing new places, working as an army, a team, with the people you like having a laugh with.

JE: Yeah, I agree with that.

Sil: Having your mates (excuse me? - Ed.) and a laugh and a drink, enjoying it. Even though 'it's a hard strenuous job' it's very rewarding. And although you're happy to see the last day of a tour, it's sad to see your mates go - it's an emotional tear!

PR: Here Here! I've got an emotional tear - it hurts when I.....ouch!

PAUL ROBERTS - Athens Correspondent



STRANGLERS COVERS

Owen Carne

Only a handful of bands have attempted cover versions of songs by the Stranglers and to date only six have made it on to records. The versions range from appalling to pretty good, in any style from heavy metal to disco!

The versions that SIS have tracked down so far are as follows:-

"Hanging Around" - Hazel O'Connor (Albion)

The first ever recorded cover of an MIB track, recorded by the punk starlet who was Hugh's girlfriend at the time. Surprisingly, this weak, lacklustre version was issued as a single and probably sold no more than 20 copies (all to Stranglers fans!). Sounds remarkably similar to "Da Da Da" by Trio and it was accompanied by a classic video!



"Nice 'n' Sleazy" - Onslaught (London)

Found its way onto the B-side of the 'Welcome to Dying' 12" and is performed in a true metal style. More guitars instead of keyboards, wailed vocals instead of Hugh's sweet tones! The funniest part is the bass player trying to cope with the hard bass parts! Hilarious stuff! Buy it for a laugh!



"Le Weekend" - Glacier-George

This was recorded as a B-side to one of his singles. He is a French singer/songwriter who collaborated with JJ on his "Un Jour Parfait" album. Although not really a Stranglers cover, this should be of interest to fans. This is a good version and is very similar to Mr B's version of the song. A nice item to find, but it's very rare and is not widely known for its Stranglers association (so

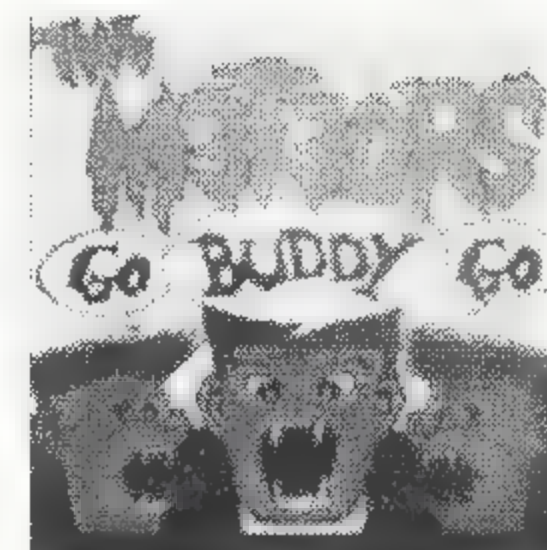
dealers probably won't know of it!). Sorry to be so negative!

"No More Heroes" - Boss

Released as a 7" single, this disco version is hardly recognisable, except for the chorus! The words have been changed, the music's been changed.... destined for the Bargain Bin from day one! (It's so bad, I haven't even bought it!)

"Go Buddy Go" - Meteors (Anagram)

Issued in 1987, this is one of the best cover versions so far! Suited to the Meteors' psychobilly/rockabilly style, it's actually pretty close to the original! The guitar is slightly twangy at times, but vocals, drums and bass are perfect. The 7" of this is well worth buying and it shows that some bands can almost do the Stranglers justice! The band should definitely feel complimented by this one! Buy it!



"Grip" - Prong

This is the most recent cover version to appear and is in a thrash metal style! Don't let that put you off! This is a classic, second only to the Meteors! (It's quite similar to Hugh's new version by coincidence!). It would appear to be a version of "Grip '89", rather than the original, due to its arrangement! This version has balls, plenty of energy and a brilliant harmonica solo (very Lew Lewis!). Definitely worth buying (it's the B-side to a 12").

To summarise, it's very interesting to see how this wide range of bands cope with their chosen songs! Unfortunately, these versions hit just as much as they miss! Now try comparing the Stranglers' version of "Mony, Mony", "96 Tears", "Walk On By" and "All Day" with the originals! Interesting!

A DJ writes....

Due to a sustained demand for the Stranglers twenty year anniversary cassette documentary, 'Rock 'N Roll According To The Meninblack', Dave Mason is continuing to make the 90 minute, speech only, autobiography available to SIS members. Priced £11.50 UK, £13.50 Europe and £15.50 USA, the comprehensive production involves every band member past and present. Dave and Jet offer amusing anecdotal recollections, whilst Hugh, JJ and John give a full account of what the Stranglers are and why Hugh left. Paul adds a fresh input to bring twenty years of British rock institution up to date. Some moments may even surprise you!

Originally devised for radio, this project has been offered to fans through SIS first, as negotiations with a broadcaster for a musical illustration a two part production is on-going. The cassette version for SIS contains no music and is more detailed than the proposed broadcast edition.

A couple of hundred orders have already been despatched and I'm sure you'll find this unique insight good value. Cheques should be made payable to: Dave Mason Productions, c/o SIS, P.O. Box 195, Cambridge, together with your name and address as separate items from your usual SIS correspondence.

Mason-in-black

A DAY INTO NIGHT

by Marian

1993

Early hours – Sat. 11th Sept.

With nervous expression and increasingly shaky hand I clutch the microphone and falteringly attempt to explain the situation as 400 pairs of eyes glower at me in the dim light. "Erm, I'm afraid that the video screen we hired hasn't turned up – I can however tell you what you *would* have seen and hum a few of the songs. Er, and also, the caterers were offered a last minute booking at the Smash Hits party, and as they figured that preparing several hundred rusks and strained apple portions would be easier money they've buggered off to do that instead. I have, however, managed to secure a couple of bars of fruit and nut and half a Terry's chocolate orange, which will be shared out at 1 o'clock, so we shouldn't go hungry. Oh yes, and the band couldn't actually make it along after all, but they said they're sure you'd all understand and at the back of the hall you'll find a few boxes of Travel Scrabble that they've kindly lent us to keep you entertained, so if you could just form a queue and wait your turn...er, why are you all heading towards me with those empty bottles in your hands? huh? Hey, can't we talk about this? Aaaaargh.....!"

6.30am. Awake suddenly in the all too familiar cold sweat that afflicts everyone who suffers from 'Omigod-it-could-all-go-horribly-wrong-and-I'll-have-to-leave-the-country' - itus. Try to exercise a little positive thinking. "Look, you all got through the '92 convention in one piece, and if the worst comes to the worst the Venue does have a back exit through which you could be out and away before anyone notices". With this comforting thought I pack up all the gumpf necessary for the day, point myself in the general direction of New Cross and head off.

8.30am. Arrive at the Venue. Most of the SIS squad are already here, along with the van stuffed to the gills with merchandise. It is no small miracle that this is here at all. 2 days ago, Carl (Davey) came up to the office *hoping* to take the stuff back down to London in his car. On being confronted, however, with 8 enormous boxes containing the freebie shirts alone, and aware that his car doesn't aspire towards Tardis-like capabilities, a last-minute rush to hire a van seemed to be something of a necessity. A simple enough operation? Not on your life – after trying every van hire company listed in 'good old' Yellow Pages and being told time and again "sorry, all hired out" we became convinced that there was a national van

convention being held
that weekend
that

nobody had told us about. One fruitless hour on the phone later, Carl was beginning to develop a slightly crazed look in his eye and was demanding in near hysterical tones whenever a van drove past the office window, while gesturing wildly towards the offending vehicle "Look! There's another one. How come *they've* got one and I haven't?!" while I paced around the office muttering that next year I was going to get the whole event delivered in bulk from Conventions R Us and save ourselves the grief. Fortunately, just before we went completely over the edge and attempted to hit the highway on a van-jacking mission one of his work colleagues faxes through a list of numbers not yet tried, and we finally struck it lucky. Sanity preserved....for now at least.

9.00am. And setting up is well underway. Sept. 11th is the day that the band officially registered their name in 1974, and an absolutely amazing cake has been made by Jacquie featuring the rat/sunrise design from Rattus, to commemorate the fact. A stable surface out of harm's way is hastily found to place it on as I have visions of a replay of the Basil Fawlty/roast duck incident if it's left in a vulnerable position. The Venue has all the facilities we need and not a bad atmosphere, but it also has umpteen floors, each connected by umpteen stairs, and with the room allocated as the SIS office on the ground level, the main hall two floors up, the balcony area one floor above that and the Star Bar (location of the karate/catering and guest bands) at the top of the building) I'm seriously wondering why I didn't hire a (very large) bungalow instead. After a few hours, as my leg muscles start to seize up, console myself with the thought that by the end of the day I (and the rest of the crew) will probably have earned a week off of the callanetics and workout's with Mr. Motivator.

10.00am. Representatives of the National Fancy Rat Society arrive, accompanied by 10 furry critters. One of the Venue's staff eyes them warily and decides that he has an urgent job to do in another room. Another room on the other side of the building. Right now. Can't understand it myself – I think that they're cute (and the rats are quite nice too).

10.15am. Simon Webb and Robert Merwiak, our two Meninblack arrive, fully kitted out but looking far too healthy and human at this stage to

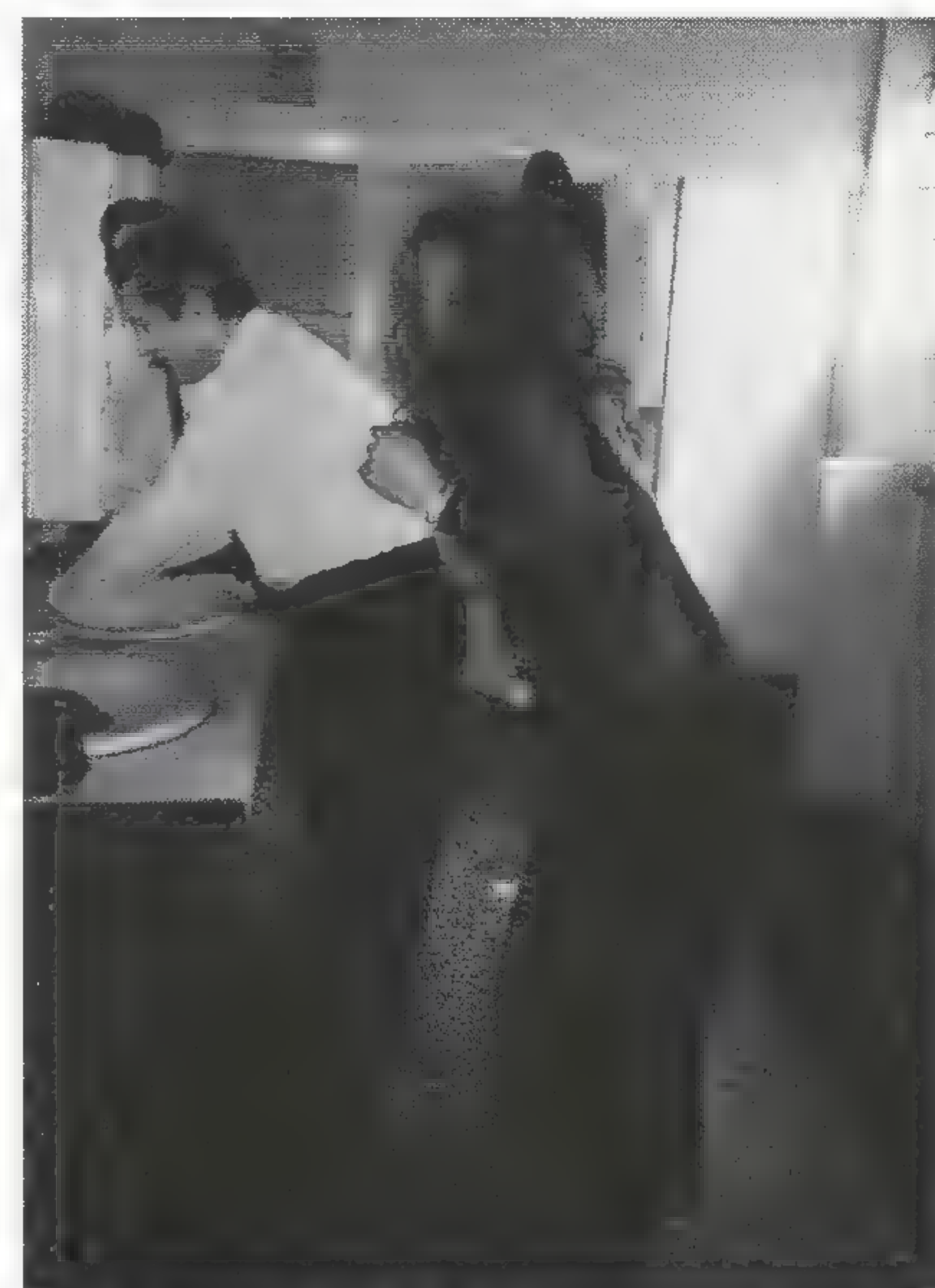
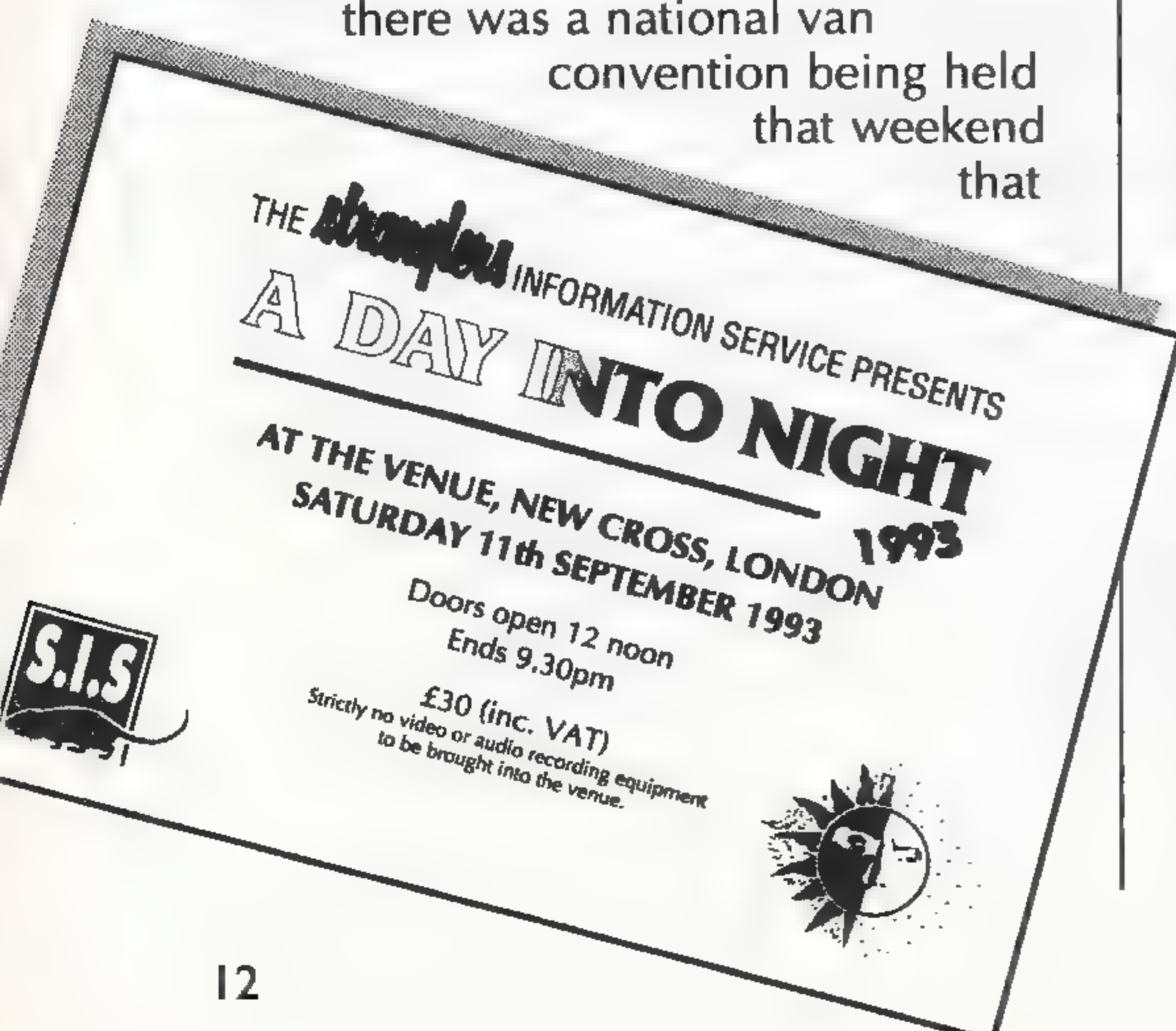


Photo: David Holdstock

No. 2 in a limited edition photo set entitled: "Marian in the Gents"

pass as the real thing. They've brought the white panstick with them, but Simon's kicking himself (and kicking Robert occasionally when he feels like a change) for forgetting to bring the grey make-up – hollow cheeks and eye sockets for the production of. A swift dive down my own slap holdall produces a grey eyeshadow, and with catcalls ringing in my ears and aspersions being cast left right and centre on my morals, we three disappear for 15 minutes into the gents (more light in there you see – yes *really*) so that I can paint as gaunt a visage on each of them as possible. In no time at all they look as though they've just been dug up – Perfect. It's now less than a quarter of an hour to blast off, so Simon and Robert immediately drop into character and solemnly make their way downstairs to 'greet' everyone arriving. For the remainder of the day they move silently, and in perfect synchronization) among the attendees, stopping every so often to strike an appropriate pose. Consideration is given as to how we'll manage to keep their egos under control when it's all over as we're sure that there are more pictures being taken of them than the band themselves (just so long as they don't bring in the Alien Workers Union to demand performance fees on their behalf, that's all).



While the 'create your own MIB' class is going on, Jet arrives, and barely has time to sit down before a pile of *Much Ado's* is pushed in his direction and he's asked ever-so-nicely if he'll be kind enough to sign them as a bonus for anyone who purchases one. Always the gentleman, Jet agrees, but this isn't to be the main reason why he wins the day's SIS Active Service medal – oh no, that will come later...

12.00pm. The incoming flood begins. JE has arrived and is chatting to everyone and collecting the photo-booth mug shots that attendees who would like to be featured on a forthcoming souvenir poster that he's producing have brought along. Nik has taken on the job, with one of the Venue's staff, of security at the main entrance. He says it's because he's experienced in this type of role. I think it's so he can sneak off to his car from time to time and listen to the radio to check on Chelsea's progress this afternoon.

1.00am. The rest of the band (except Paul, who is due to arrive a little later) are here, and the first of the day's events kicks off – The Jet Black Forum hosted by Neil Martin. Neil has been billed as SIS's answer to Peter Sissons, which is a little unfair as N. doesn't use nearly as much Brylcreem. Jet takes to the stage and has said that he's happy to answer any question that's thrown at him. I wonder what deep and searching enquiry is going to open this intellectually stimulating hour with the founder member of a band whose eventful and prolific career has spanned almost 20 years. I don't have to wait long for an answer... "Have you ever played a gig in a state of arousal?" Oh Gawd. A smart retort rewards this little piece of audacity as Jet replies with a smile "The answer to that would be was there ever a time when any of us haven't played a gig in a state of arousal!" Ooh JB, you are awful, but we like you!



Jet & Neil (presumably not in a state of arousal)

1.50pm. Begin to become a little concerned – karaoke man and machine due a while ago and no sign of it yet. Don't panic – everything comes to she who waits...

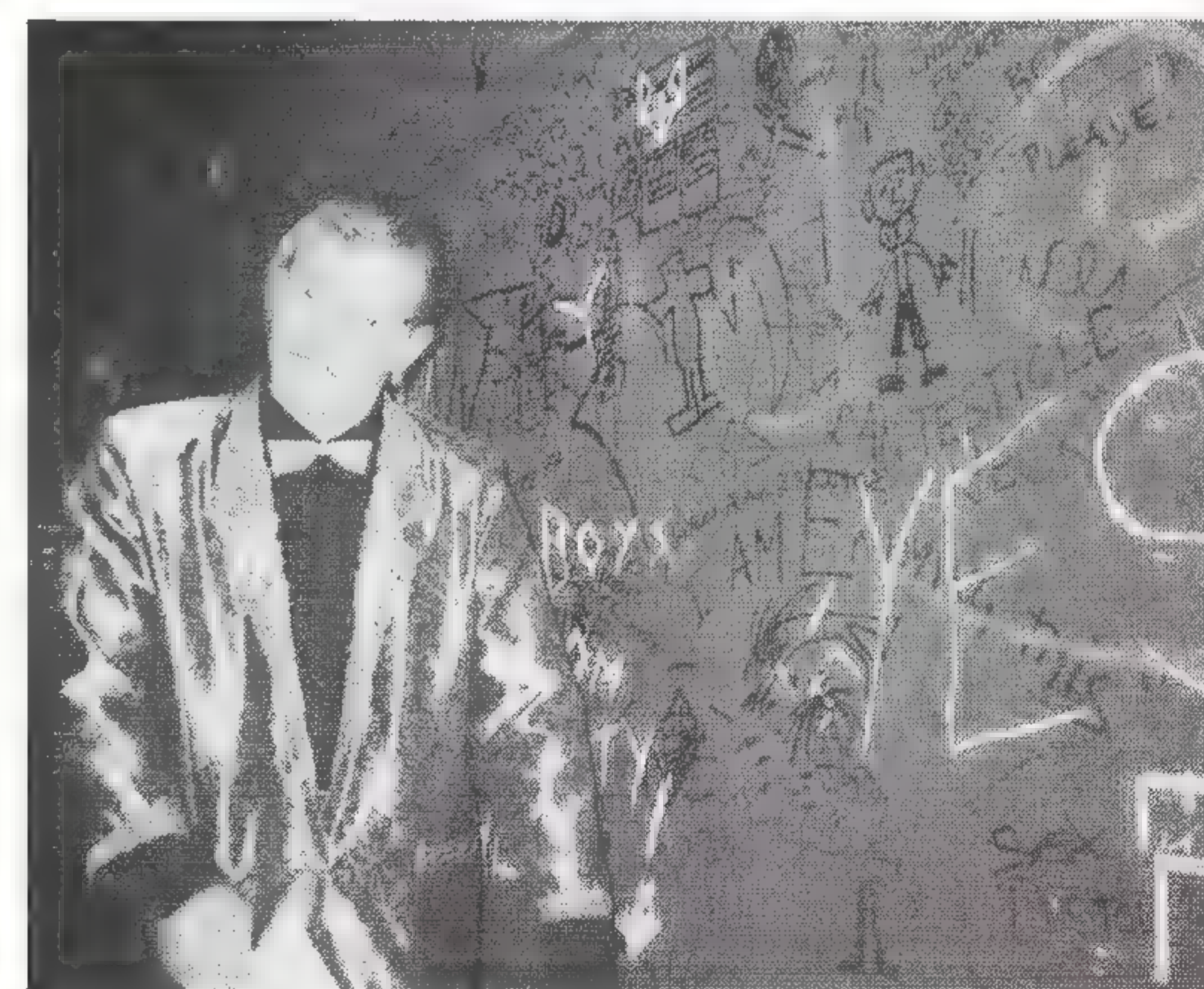


2.00pm. JJ's karate session begins in the Star Bar, which is packed with onlookers and quite a few hardy individuals who are taking part. Although the scene brings to mind the "I will force my body to be my weapon and my statement" line from D&N&B, I can't help feeling that if I dared to participate it'd be more a case of 'I will force my body to become extremely bruised and my bones to fracture in several places'. JJ has often enquired "so, when are you going to join my karate class then?", with a slightly evil look in his eye. I decide to vacate the room at this point in case he remembers. Head back downstairs to check on everyone else. Dave and Pam (with friends Becky and Marcus) are busy demonstrating the ancient Viking and Egyptian games of Hanefetafel and Senet, and quite a few people are watching with interest and taking part. Good. The Rennes video is running on the screen. Great. Paul Davies, who has set up a stall selling more highly desirable Stranglers record rarities than you can shake a shitty stick at seems to be doing good business, as does the SIS merchandise stall. Abso-bloody-lutely wonderful, but WHERE'S THE KARAOKE?! Am now becoming convinced that not only have they absconded but they've taken Paul with them. Naah – he'll be here. They will too, won't they?.....

2.45pm. Just about to yank Dave away from his Hanefetafel (ouch, nasty) and inform him that his 4.00pm Challenge has been hastily rescheduled to the 3.00pm Karaoke spot when someone taps me on the shoulder and says "there's someone looking for you who you may be pleased to see". I turn to face a familiar mop of blond hair with singer attached. PAUL!! I don't think he's ever received such an ecstatic (and relieved) welcome in his life. My joy and rapture is suddenly crushed by the re-occurrence of one nagging question. "WHERE THE FLYING *!!* IS THE KARA..." "Oh, there's a man with a karaoke machine downstairs – don't know if you're interested" a passer-by mentions casually. I hardly know the bearer of this news but I think I love him. Crisis over, it's all systems go, and we drag Paul away to the SIS 'office' to undergo the transformation from hyperactive and slightly insane lead vocalist to Guy Slimey, Satan's

Gameshow Host. An eyeliner pen is wielded to produce an instant spiv's moustache, a tacky beyond all human imagination silver jacket & bow tie is donned and glasses and a greased back ponytail added to complete the creation. Hmmm. Problem. How do we get him up the stairs from the office and through the main hall to the backstage area without his being seen, lest a premature glimpse spoil the surprise (horror)? Sally and I decide we'll throw a jacket over his head and lead him through the crowd with the two meninblack leading the way as 'minders' in the style of the best publicity-shy superstars and criminals (or criminal superstars). We try desperately hard to keep a straight face, despite the sniggers and muffled exclamations of "I can't believe I'm doing this" and "I can't see a bloody thing!" coming from beneath the jacket. The dramatic effect of this entrance is blown somewhat when some bright spark susses the identity of the owner of the legs protruding from the jacket and calls out "Hello Paul, how's it going mate?" (There's always one isn't there?)

3.15pm. It's Karaoke time! (Yes, we know it's naff – that's the whole point!) Paul has been instructed to become the living amalgamation of every godawful, oily, chauvinistic, egocentric gameshow host that you have ever been subjected to, and he plays it to perfection (a little too perfect in fact – a secret yearning for another career or indulgence of a fantasy perhaps? I wonder...) The guy operating the karaoke machine – nice bloke but



every inch a burly 'one of the lads' type – seems a little uneasy at first at Paul's insistence of kissing him on the cheek and calling him 'Audrey' throughout the event. I shuffle up to Audrey and hiss in his ear "don't worry, he's like that with everyone", and Audrey relaxes a little. There is no shortage of volunteers to get up and 'do their funky thang', and although some damage is occasionally inflicted on the ears of the audience, I take my hat off (well. I would if I was wearing one) to the participants for their bravery in getting up in front of the masses who are baying for blood.

Photo: John Pridige

Photo: Marie Pierre Gaudet

Photo: Simon Webb

Special mentions here *must* go to our own Sil Wilcox for his tuneful (if a little physically explicit) interpretation of Tom Jones' 'It's Not Unusual', Marcus (a close friend of Dave and Pam's) who is carried off stage screaming "Fame and fortune is mine!" after giving a rendition of 'Tutti Frutti' (he will live to regret this folly for weeks to come when he finds he is unable to arrive at the pub without one of us shouting "A wop bop a lu bop a wop bam boo!" at him while Dave smirks quietly over his pint) and last but certainly not least, the winner of the contest, subscriber Remany Ramsay, who is presented with Paul's wonderful (?) silver jacket after singing an acapella duet of *Strange Little Girl* with der boy himself – Rather appropriate really – it's been a strange little hour.

4.00pm. You all thought Dave was just your common-or-garden, mild mannered, quiet and unassuming keyboard whizz-kid didn't you? Wrong! He's actually a power-crazed demon quizmaster from the planet Cryptic with the mind of a computer and an insatiable desire to see SIS subscribers reduced to jelly, their foreheads



Photo: Paul Edwards

contorted into corrugated frowns, as they desperately try and answer the onslaught of questions being fired in their direction by himself and Pam. You don't believe me? Just ask any of the 6 contestants who are taking part in the DG Challenge. 12 potential entrants are reduced to 6 by a quick-fire 'list the year of release of 10 given Strangers recordings' round. Then begins the Challenge proper. Each of 4 rounds sees the elimination of one contestant, with subjects all connected in one way or another to the band, culminating in a final where each of the two remaining contestants, working against the clock, has to sift through a large box of shredded paper and fish out symbols of the band's 11 studio albums. That's not *quite* it though – they then have to hand them out, in the correct order of release, to be held up by their own 11-person 'human pin-board'. There are a few red herrings thrown in the boxes to make life difficult for the two finalists

(we're all members of Sadists Anonymous' here y'know) as well as a tiny red sock – the only non-silhouette symbol which, of course, represents *Strangers In The Night*. Congratulations to the overall winner Kevin Maidment, who must have taken a few Sanatogen Superhuman Plus pills with his Weetymunch this morning to have battled his way through a particularly evil DG quiz without his head exploding.

5.30pm. We have invited along 3 bands, each with an SIS subscriber in the ranks, to play a set of their own material. These are *the Cosmonauts* (subscriber Grant Olding), *Goodbye Haley Mills* (Paul Wilkinson) and *the Mess-Age* (Peter Armstrong). They're scheduled to play in the Star Bar after the DG Challenge ends, and here commenceth the only real cock-up of the day. While I was on stage assisting Dave & Pam with the quiz, a total jobsworth of a sound engineer who, ironically, was hired to make things go more smoothly for the three bands, insisted (contrary to instructions) that the first band went on at 4.30! They weren't sure that this was right, but assuming that the schedule must have



The Cosmonauts



Goodbye Haley Mills



The Mess-Age

been changed went on anyway. Consequently, as everyone has been downstairs watching the quiz, up 'til now they've been playing great material to an almost empty room. On being informed of this I consider throwing the engineer into the crowd during the gig later, and telling everyone that *he* was the guy who yelled "wanker" at the Strangers all those years ago – nice clean job and all over quickly. However, Stephen Brady, the Venue's manager, is so impressed with the performances of all three bands that he steps in and offers them all support slots with major bands at the Venue in the future ('bloody nice bloke' as Harry Enfield might have said) so all's well that ends well. If you see any of these bands advertising gigs, go and see them – you won't be disappointed.

6.45pm. Owen takes to the stage in the guise of Auctioneer. Over to you O.....

As with last year's Convention, this year's SIS event featured an auction of rare Strangers items. Each member of the band donated an item to be auctioned and SIS gathered together some beautiful pieces of memorabilia.

Most of the items auctioned were original artwork, notably for the SIS single "Tomorrow Was" and a rejected design for the 1983 LP "Feline". Jon Peachey also donated his original drawing of JJ on his motorcycle (NME cover 1979), Simon Webb gave a one-off special edition re-working of the photo on the cover of *Strangled 38* (signed by the "Game Show Host From Hell!")

Surprisingly, unlike last year, there weren't many records up for grabs in this auction. A "Peaches" radioplay was auctioned, as was an original "Peaches" sleeve which didn't even reach its minimum bid of £100 (a sad state of affairs!)

The items donated by the band created the most interest, particularly Paul's bow tie (from the Karaoke event!) which reached a huge £7.50! JJ donated his trade mark, a pair of 8-hole Dr. Martens and Dave managed

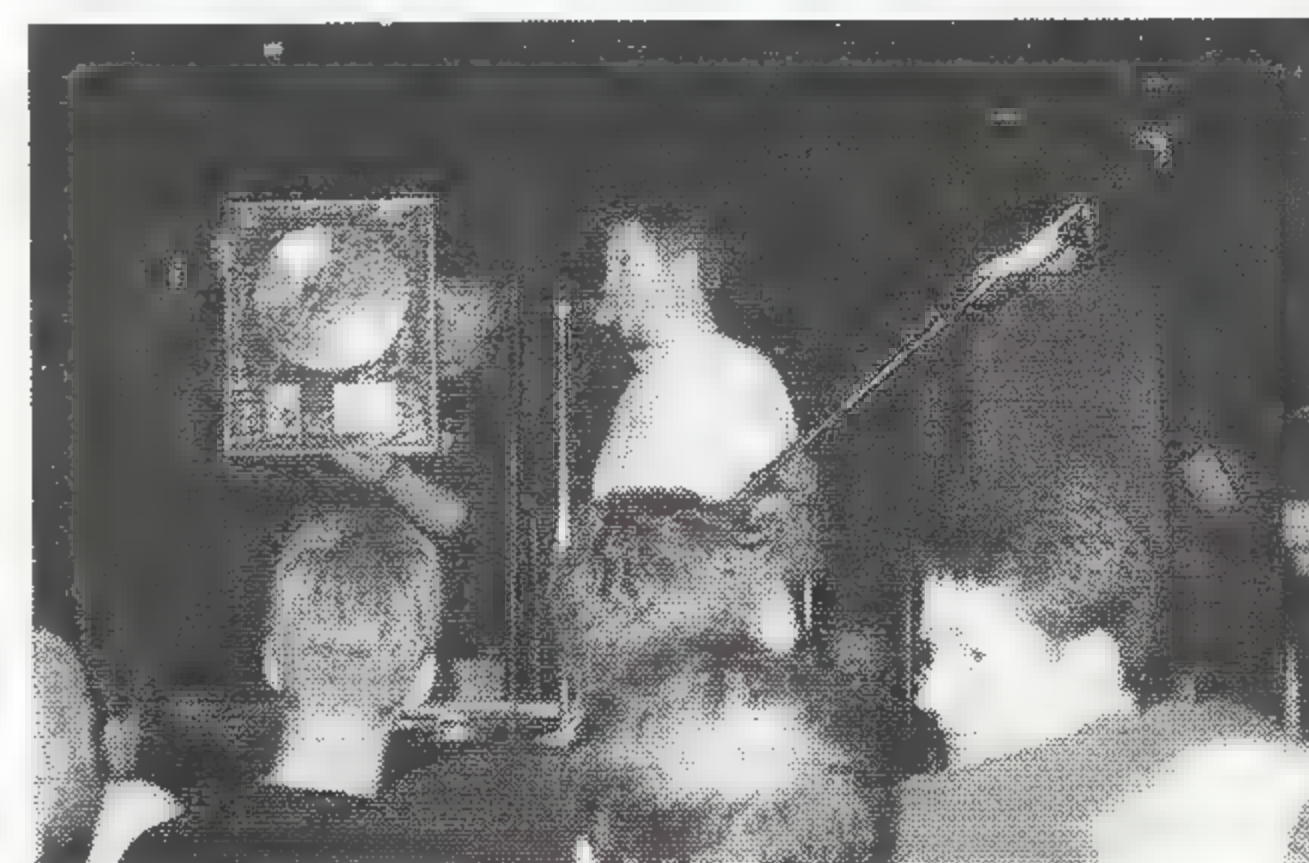


Photo: Paul Edwards

Photo: John Pridge

Photo: John Pridge



to part with his famous black bag (which we heard had to be surgically removed...). Jet gave an original mounted Pennie Smith photo of the band in Iceland in 1978 and 1 other item.... a silver disc.

Yes, a real silver disc presented to him to mark 60,000 sales of "The Collection" LP. It was in absolutely perfect condition and hadn't even had its plastic cover removed! This item saw the most intense bidding and eventually it reached a massive £660, which surprised everybody!

It was an exciting climax to the auction, which raised a considerable sum for charity and I'd like to extend our thanks to all those who bought items and to my lovely assistant, Wig (and not to forget the joker who bid £1 for each item! Ho! Ho! Ho!). Get saving for next year, the BIG one!!!

P.S. And I didn't even mention the banners!!!

Owen

7.30pm. If anyone has been in any doubt as to why we've all come along here today, the point is about to be driven home in no uncertain terms. The band kick into a blistering performance featuring the new tracks first performed on the US tour (and even on first hearing people are remarking that they deserve to be massive) and classics spanning the years up to the most recent b-sides 'Coffee Shop' and 'So Uncool' (many of those present later said that they were particularly impressed with the live treatment given to the latter). Eyebrows are raised and reaction ecstatic when Paul takes over the role of bassist with JJ at the mike for the familiar breathy vocal of 'Don't Bring Harry'. The biggest surprise of the night, and for me personally the thing that will remain the most vivid memory of the event, is when Jet, for the first time ever, appears as lead vocalist for the encore

Photo: Paul Edwards

(he hasn't yet been completely fit enough to resume his place at the drums, which have been admirably handled by Tim Bruce today) and treats us to a rendition of 'Old Codger' that will go down in Stranglers history. It is obvious that he and the band are thoroughly enjoying it, and it's no surprise that the audience go absolutely wild – all I can manage to do is stand at the side of the stage and grin like a dopey Cheshire cat, absolutely speechless – George Melly? Who he? JB you are a star!

When the band end a day with this sort of performance I think all of us would agree that you can't possibly regret a single moment of the work and inevitable problems involved in setting such an event up. However, *should* that branch of Conventions R Us open before the 20th Anniversary bash next year, none of us would say no to a little help, so I may well be at the front of the queue with my trolley! See you in 94....

Marian

Very Special Thanks to Convention Exec. Owen Carne for his invaluable help in setting the day up, Nik Yeomans for 'discovering' the Venue (without which...) and, in no particular order as everyone did an excellent job – Carl (for lugging merchandise up and down the country and developing van-hire fatigue!), Jacquie (for creating the cake), Neil, Wig (for finding that silver jacket) and Suzanne (for painstakingly sewing 1001 sequins on it), Simon and Robert (*born to be M.I.B.*) Danny & Gary (for being on call and stepping in as excellent merchandise crew members yet again), Sally (for doing at least 50 laps of the Venue in the course of the day!) Dave & John (for the last minute dash to find a silver bow tie for PR), Jon & Jez (for the fantastic banners – shame they went a.w.o.l. so quickly – whoever whipped 'em is not on *anyone's* Christmas card list round here, to say the least), the Cosmonauts, Goodbye Hayley Mills, The Message, Stephen Bradey & the staff at the Venue, everyone else who 'fought for the cause'(!) and, of course, ALL OF YOU WHO TURNED UP!



Tim Bruce

Photo: Paul Edwards



Photo: Paul Edwards

IN A RUT

(we've got to get out of it...)

From time to time I receive tapes at the office from up and coming, unsigned bands asking if SIS and the Stranglers will give them a listen and possibly a review in Strangled. As the frantic activity involved in keeping the Good Ship SIS afloat usually makes bedlam seem tranquil, there isn't always as much time as I'd like to give these tapes a listen right away, but they're always kept safe until the opportunity for a sanity break arises when I can give them the full attention that they deserve. I'm often left stunned that at a time when the rapidly stagnating British music industry should be pulling out all the stops to seek out new talent (and here I emphasise the word 'talent' as opposed to 'acts' – there are plenty of those cluttering the charts but that doesn't necessarily mean that they merit their place there) so many exciting and innovative young bands are constantly meeting brick walls whenever they approach the record company A&R (or 'umm and ahh' as they're more commonly referred to) departments, simply because of the Industry's sheer terror of taking risks with anything that doesn't fit the current 'marketable' mould (hence the dance monopoly of the airwaves that has held it's grip for so long). This hasn't always been the case – the British music scene once used to be unchallengeable as the

spawning ground for all that was weird, wonderful & original, but unless somebody somewhere wakes up soon it'll be suffocated under an avalanche of 'Now That's What I Call 20 Identical Drum Patterns 201' compilation albums. Is there any hope at all? Well if all (and there are still the few that do) A&R depts. actually start listening to those demo tapes instead of disinterestedly consigning them to the storage cupboards/waste paper bins I think there could well be...

One band in particular whose tape sent me scurrying to the phone demanding to know the date and location of their next gig is Circus In Town. Hailing from Bedfordshire, and with a sizeable local following, the line up is (all aliases) 'Johnny Midnight' (vocals), 'Vic Ferrari' (guitars) and 'James

Delgado' (keyboards, synths & drum progs.) 'James' is an SIS subscriber who tells me that his greatest influence has been our own in-house keyboard maestro Dave Greenfield, and this is certainly evident in the band's sound which to my ears contains elements of the Stranglers &



the Damned with a light seasoning in places of Talk Talk, while managing to avoid being a counterfeit copy of any of them. The opener of their recently released 4-track cassette 'The Sordid World Of Doctor Death' (on their own label 'Darius Doll Records') is 'Satan's Heels'. This track was my first introduction to the band, and the one that compelled me to cease all other activity and turn up the volume – the powerful vocal is a fusion of Vanian and Roberts and the song so infuriat-



The Circus Times
Issue 4
October 1993

The official CIRCUS IN TOWN Fanzine

ingly catchy that I (literally) wore that section of the tape thin from the compulsion to 'just give it one more listen'! Also featured on the cassette, and of particular interest to followers of the Stranglers is a live cover of No More Heroes which is so sharp it's dangerous. JJ was particularly impressed with the band, and Paul, when I played him the tape, remarked that the singer may well have to be 'eliminated' as competition (he was only joking...I think!) 'The Sordid World Of Doctor Death' along with their fanzine Circus Times (which has a delightfully subversive tone to it!) is available from Circus In Town, 200 Jeansway, Dunstable, Beds LU5 4PR.

I hope to be able to include further reviews of tapes etc. received in future issues of Strangled. Apologies to anyone still awaiting a reaction to material which they've sent in – I promise that as soon as all the tour furore has died down they *will* be listened to!

Marian

And to think that Mr. B told us only a while ago that he'd been resting & recuperating – seems there's been a spot of moonlighting going on.....



So come on Jet – how much did they pay you? Fancy selling out!

Well I don't care – you look great! Best wishes to all at Strangled and of course the Stranglers.

Andrew Tyson, Deeside, Clwyd.



| | |
|---|---|
| Ladies Night with THE DREAMBOYS Admission £10.00 Members £7.50 | Admission £5 Members £3 |
| Saturday 24th April 50's Night with JET BLACK Admission £3.00 Members free | Saturday 29th BOOTLEG BUDD All the great Bu hits. Admission Member: |
| | Monday 3 |

So now we know what Jet gets up to in his spare time.

Thought you might like this for Strangled. I noticed it when we printed this the other day.

Cheers,

Andy Wiseman, Barnehurst, Kent.

Enclosed is a leaflet I picked up a couple of weeks ago, at Burnley Mechanics.

Looking forward to seeing Mr Jet Black with the Stranglers on tour soon!

Best wishes, RussinBlack
(Russell Moorhouse),
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

COMPLETE GIG LISTING - THE NEW ERA

SIS regularly receives letters from subscribers asking for details about certain gigs or tours. Therefore, we thought that it would be of interest to print a definitive and complete gig listing for the Stranglers Mk II.

This listing covers the first gigs in Athens in 1991 right up to date with the "Gig in a Tent" at Fontwell Park this year. We've also included any interesting anecdotes or information about gigs, where relevant.

We hope that this listing is of interest to all you Meninblack fact fans out there. Here goes....

Owen

1991

- 22/2/91 Rodon Club, Athens, Greece
New line-up's first ever gig
- 23/2/91 Rodon Club, Athens, Greece
- "Heaven Or Hell" UK Tour:**
- 25/2/91 Old Trout, Windsor
First British gig
- 26/2/91 Junction, Cambridge
- 27/2/91 Woughton Centre, Milton Keynes
- 28/2/91 Goldwyns, Birmingham
Paul encounters hostile reception (spitting etc.)
- 2/3/91 Riverside, Newcastle
- 3/3/91 King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, Glasgow
Gig sold out within 1 hour!
- 4/3/91 Venue, Edinburgh
- 5/3/91 Warehouse, Leeds
- 6/3/91 Boardwalk, Manchester
- 8/3/91 Tic Toc, Coventry
JJ sorts out abusive punter
- 9/3/91 Waterfront, Norwich
- 10/3/91 Bierkeller, Bristol
- 11/3/91 University, Loughborough
Gig attended by several A&R men
- 19/3/91 Irish Centre, Northampton
Low key warm up for London gig
- 20/3/91 Town & Country Club, London
- "Heaven Or Hell" European Tour:**
- 15/6/91 Festival, Cham, Switzerland
- 16/6/91 Le Mad, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 17/6/91 Festival, Cremona, Italy
- 18/6/91 Salles des Fetes, Vitrolles, France
- 19/6/91 L'Apocalypse, Toulouse, France
- 20/6/91 Theatre Barbey, Bordeaux, France
- 21/6/91 Palace Gardens, Paris, France
Attended by President Mitterrand's daughter
- 22/6/91 Nightown, Rotterdam, Holland
- 23/6/91 Academy, Brixton
- 5/7/91 Festival, Fravenfeld, Switzerland
- 19/7/91 Festival, Tallin, Estonia (was Russia)
Band played to about 100,000 people
- 9/8/91 Trades & Labour Club, Leeds
Atmosphere so humid, band's power kept cutting
- 10/8/91 Maine Road, Manchester
As support to Simple Minds
- 17/8/91 Stadium, Gateshead, Newcastle
As support to Simple Minds
- 24/8/91 Bowl, Milton Keynes
As support to Simple Minds
- 13/9/91 Fete l'Humanite, Paris, France
Communist Party Free Festival
- 14/9/91 Rock a l'Viene, Meisenthal, France
- 27/9/91 Stadium, Oporto, Portugal
- 28/9/91 Coliseu, Lisbon, Portugal

1992:

- 14/3/92 SIS Convention, Peterborough
Band played a 40 minute set of new material

"In The Night" UK Tour:

- 28/9/92 Tic Toc, Coventry

- 29/9/92 Colston Hall, Bristol
- 30/9/92 Town & Country Club, London
- 1/10/92 Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
- 3/10/92 Academy, Manchester
- 4/10/92 Barrowlands, Glasgow
- 5/10/92 St. George's Hall, Bradford
- 6/10/92 Rock City, Nottingham
- 7/10/92 City Hall, Newcastle
- 8/10/92 Town Hall, Middlesbrough
- 10/10/92 Royal Court, Liverpool
- 11/10/92 National Ballroom, Kilburn, London
Jet gets cyanide poisoning
- 12/10/92 Corn Exchange, Cambridge
Band's 50th gig for new line-up

"In The Night" European Tour:

- 17/10/92 Nachtwerk, Munich, Germany
- 18/10/92 Musensaal, Mannheim, Germany
- 19/10/92 Kongresshalle, Saarbrücken, Germany
- 20/10/92 Capitol, Hanover, Germany
- 21/10/92 Grosse Freiheit, Hamburg, Germany
- 22/10/92 Metropole, Berlin, Germany
- 23/10/92 Gottschale, Munich, Germany
- 25/10/92 Outpost, Göttingen, Germany
- 26/10/92 Musikhalle, Frankfurt, Germany
- 27/10/92 Longhorn, Stuttgart, Germany
Due to Jet's illness, Rat Scabies brought in on day
- 6/11/92 Jugendheff, Fulda, Germany
- 7/11/92 Salle des Fetes du Lignon, Geneva, Switzerland
- 8/11/92 Volkshaus, Zurich, Switzerland
- 9/11/92 Rockhaus, Vienna, Austria
- 11/11/92 Fieir, Nr. Felkirch, Austria
- 12/11/92 City Square, Milan, Italy
- 13/11/92 Transbordeur, Lyon, France
- 14/11/92 Le Pied, Montferran Satries, Toulouse, France
- 16/11/92 Elysee, Paris, France
Coach trip from UK
- 18/11/92 Aeronef, Lille, France
- 19/11/92 Tivoli, Utrecht, Holland
- 22/11/92 Zelest, Barcelona, Spain
- 23/11/92 Aqualung Universal, Madrid, Spain
- 26/11/92 Coco Paradiso, Thessalonica, Greece
- 27/11/92 Rodon Club, Athens, Greece
- 28/11/92 Rodon Club, Athens, Greece

"In The Night" Japanese Tour:

- 17/12/92 Club Citta, Kawasaki, Tokyo, Japan
Jet returns on drums
- 19/12/92 Shibuya Public Hall, Tokyo, Japan
- 20/12/92 Club Quattro, Lagova, Japan
- 21/12/92 Club Quattro, Osaka, Japan
- 22/12/92 Club Quattro, Osaka, Japan

1993:

- 4/2/93 Caird Hall, Dundee
- 5/2/93 Barrowlands, Glasgow
- 6/2/93 University, Leeds
- 7/2/93 Centre, Newport
- 8/2/93 Ritzy, Nottingham
- 10/2/93 UEA, Norwich
- 12/2/93 Leisure Centre, Aston Villa, Birmingham

13/2/93 Academy, Manchester
 14/2/93 Apollo, Oxford
 16/2/93 Dome, Brighton
 17/2/93 Town & Country, London
 18/2/93 Town & Country, London

French Tour:

4/3/93 Passage du Nord Ouest, Paris
 5/3/93 Salles de Fetes, Nancy
 6/3/93 L'Entrepot, Grenoble
 7/3/93 Le Salamandre, Strasbourg
 9/3/93 MJC, Tours
 10/3/93 Le Family, Landereau, Nr. Brest
 11/3/93 L'Ubu, Rennes
 12/3/93 L'Ubu, Rennes
 26/3/93 Le Plan, Ris Orange
Rescheduled from 8/3/93

US Tour:

9/6/93 Hideaway, St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada
Keith of A.R.B. on drums
 10/6/93 Big Bobs, London, Ontario, Canada
 11/6/93 Spectrum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 12/6/93 Volcano, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
 14/6/93 Backstreets, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 15/6/93 Metronome, Burlington, Vermont, USA
 16/6/93 Grand, New York
 17/6/93 Chestnut Cabaret, Philadelphia

18/6/93 Axis, Boston
 19/6/93 Fast lane, Asbury Park
 21/6/93 9:30 Club, Washington D.C.
 23/6/93 Royal Oak Theatre, Detroit
 24/6/93 Patio, Indianapolis
 25/6/93 Metro, Chicago
 26/6/93 Rogue, Minneapolis
 27/6/93 Alternative Cabaret, Winnipeg
 29/6/93 DV8, Salt Lake City
 2/7/93 Town Pump, Vancouver
 3/7/93 Roseland Theatre, Portland
 4/7/93 Firehouse, Seattle
 6/7/93 Slim's, San Francisco
 7/7/93 Chillers, San Diego
 8/7/93 Coach House, San Juan Capistrano
 9/7/93 Strand Theatre, Redondo Beach
 10/7/93 Ventura Theatre, Ventura
 7/8/93 Estivale Festivale, Nr. Berne, Switzerland
 13/8/93 Spuugh, Vaals, Nr. Maastricht, Holland
 14/8/93 Caracalla Festival, Vaart Zuid, Nr. Alter, Belgium
 5/9/93 Le Gartejo, Lisbon, Portugal
 6/9/93 Le Gartejo, Lisbon, Portugal
 7/9/93 Le Gartejo, Lisbon, Portugal
 11/9/93 SIS "Day Into Night", New Cross, London
Jet does version of 'Old Codger'
 30/10/93 "Gig In A Tent", Fontwell Park, Nr. Chichester
Tim on drums

NB: Gigs have also been planned in Athens (2) and a British tour, but we've not included these dates, as they haven't happened at time of going to press!

TIME TO THIGH?

Well, I ask you, what's a girl to do? There I was, enjoying my morning Weetabix and perusing the contents of that day's SIS mailbag when I tear open an innocent looking envelope from the Portsmouth Evening News, bearing no warning note whatsoever of the 'Caution those of a nervous disposition' variety and in the next moment find myself perusing the (thankfully partial) contents



of the jeans of two fifths of the Stranglers, along with a shot of another individual similarly disrobed. There were two options open to me – tuck the photos away discreetly in their brown envelope and say no more about it or contact the, ahem 'participants' and ask "Why?" Naturally, I chose the latter.

The JJ & Paul photo was taken on the Quay at Port Solent Portsmouth by the Portsmouth Evening News photographer Pete Langdown (the subject of the second pic) to accompany a short article for the paper during the run-up to the Fontwell Park gig in October. OK, OK, that all seems pretty reasonable and straightforward, but why the sudden need to give your, er, kneecaps an airing guys, and what caused Pete Langdown to be seized by a similar compulsion? Hmmm?

JJ: "Well, we've had to tolerate a lot of really pushy photographers in our time and the final straw came last year in Vienna when this Austrian photographer was barking at us "Right, you vil stand in zis pose now", "and now zis vun", so we said "OK, but you aren't getting another picture out of us unless you drop you trousers round your ankles and have *your* picture taken as well, to which this guy exclaimed "Vaat?!!" In the end he agreed and we did the same" (any excuse to get 'em off – M) "It's kind of become band policy now when we do a photo session, and this was explained to Pete when he took the Portsmouth pics – fortunately he was happy to comply".

Oh, Fair enough. (Ed's reminder to self: Get someone else to do photo shoot I'd planned to do myself during the UK tour). A couple of things that *haven't* been explained though – the bondage element and why there doesn't appear to be any evidence to suggest that Mr. Roberts remembered his knickers that day. I think we should be told. No, on the other hand, perhaps I *should* have hidden the photo and let well alone!

Marian



Photos: Portsmouth Evening News

The A to Z of Stranglers' Landmarks

For part two of this article, we spotlight the south east of England with particular reference to the Guildford area. Obviously, the band's formative years were spent in and around Guildford, so there are many interesting landmarks from the band's history in a relatively small area.

As with part one, our guide to the landmarks is Jet, who, despite some events occurring about 20 years ago, still remembers most of the details....

1. "The Star" Public House, Quarry Street, Guildford, Surrey.



This pub in the centre of Guildford has the honour of being the venue for the band's first proper, public gig. Jet remembers it as a rather poor start to their career: "None of our equipment worked properly, as it was all shoddy gear. The audience booed us and heckled, so we went back to the off-licence (where they used to live) with our tails between our legs! JJ said "The Stranglers have done it this time!" and the name just stuck... that was the start of it all!"

2. Rosemary Alley, Quarry Street, Guildford, Surrey.

Yes, an alley as a landmark! This alley, near The Star, joins Quarry Street and Millbrook and was the route the band would take down to the river after a hard night on the town in Guildford. Not really a landmark, I hear you shout! But Hugh was so enamoured by this short-cut that he penned a song about it!! Surprisingly, with such an interesting subject, this track never made it past the demo stage! Shame!

3. "The Britannia" Pub, Mill Mead, Guildford, Surrey.



A favourite band haunt! Jet said "We'd go in there pretty often in the early days. The pub is by the river and is near to the trees where Charlie Boy (an early acquaintance) would climb".

Part 2: Guildford and the South East

by Owen Carne

This led to the early song "Charlie Boy".

4. "The Jolly Farmer" Pub, Shalford Road, Guildford, Surrey.



Another landmark that happens to be a pub! This pub is slightly further up the river and was a frequent band haunt. "We never really spent any money in the pub as it was pretty pricey and we were always poor in those days". The opposite bank, Jet recalled, was a favourite spot for Hugh, where he would go every lunchtime, with his guitar, and write songs.

5. St. Mary's College, Lawn Road, off Portsmouth Road, Guildford, Surrey.

This impressive building was the college where Hugh taught public school dropouts for about 4 or 5 months. Jet said "He was dismissed, as he was too friendly with his students. Rather than being authoritarian, he was like one of the students, not one of the tutors! It was all a game to him, as he was only doing it to make some pin money". Hugh was so fond of his days at the college that he wrote "School Ma'm" about his experiences there.

6. Students Union, Guildford University, Guildford, Surrey.

This was the venue where the band were booked to appear on B.B.C.'s "Rock Goes to College" programme early in 1978. For various reasons, the band pulled out of the gig and caused huge controversy. Jet takes up the story - "We had tried to get a gig there for years; they didn't want to know. When we released a record and became famous, they jumped at the chance when the B.B.C. suggested a "Rock Goes to College" programme. We agreed to the gig, but only if half the tickets went to local kids. The B.B.C. agreed, but when we got to the gig it was obvious that virtually no tickets had gone to local kids. We weren't going to play the gig under those conditions, so we played one song and walked off stage!" This led to a ban by the B.B.C. and a large outcry about the pros and cons of the band's argument.

The band felt so strongly that a song "Social Secs" was written about the hypocrisy of the Students Union and the B.B.C. Its lyrics were eventually dropped and the song was released as the instrumental "Yellowcake UF6".

7. Scout Hut, Shalford, Surrey.



This small shed is a very important landmark from the band's early years. They used the hut as a rehearsal room between 1975 and 1976. Jet said "that building is very memorable. Initially, the band rehearsed in my off-licence in Guildford, but then we started to use the Scout Hut. We wrote most of the early tracks on "Rattus" there and we even received our first fan letter there! (from some schoolgirls on a coach trip)".

8. Cricket Pavilion, Brook, Surrey.



When the band were finally kicked out of the Scouts, they found this hall as the next rehearsal room. Jet recalls the band putting together "Down In The Sewer" here: "we went over it adding bits on, making the track longer and longer".

9. 1 Lilian Lane, Coxcombe Lane, Chiddingfold, Surrey.



This semi-detached house was home to the band for about a year between 1975 and, the year of their discovery, 1976. This entire issue of *Strangled* could be dedicated to the band's exploits in this house, most of which involved their neighbours, a wealthy Jewish couple, the Rubens.... Jet has

fond memories of the Rubens: "They just hated us! In the summer, we'd sit in the garden, strumming acoustic guitars, writing songs, and the Rubens would come out banging a dustbin lid and shouting to try and rattle us! They even phoned the council and reported that we had a recording studio in the house. We invited the council official to come and have a look around and that was the end of that!"

Mrs. Rubens, who is now both rather elderly and rather deaf, was less pleasant about the band when we met her! "I don't know what's happened to the band now, and I don't care! They were very noisy and they made our walls vibrate!" Bless her, poor long-suffering woman.....

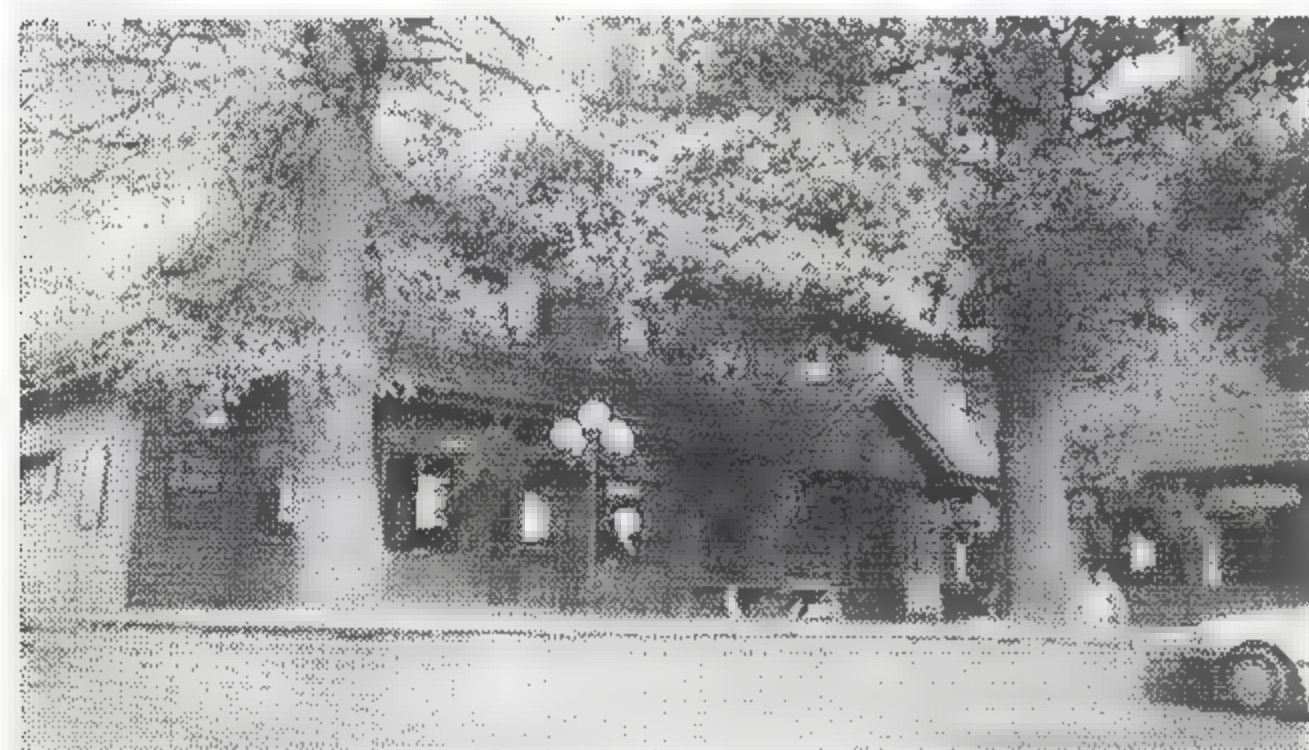
10. Village Hall, Coxcombe Lane, Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Almost next door to the band's old house is the village hall, scene of the Rubens' masterstroke. They called a village meeting there early in 1976 to try and drum up support for their cause in an effort to get the band evicted. The village showed huge support by attending the meeting (about 30 out of 150!) and the matter was dropped. Jet smiled as he remembered this personal victory for the band.....

11. "The Crown" pub, The Green, Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Surprisingly, another pub that the band frequented. The building itself is very historic and quite famous. Jet said "we used to play darts in the little cheapo bar there on the end. We'd go there every night when we weren't playing gigs!"

12. "The White Knight" pub, Pound Hill, Crawley, W. Sussex.



A small and unlikely looking pub venue in the midst of a large housing estate in Crawley, where the Stranglers played an early and eventful pub gig. Jet takes up the story – "the audience was very rock 'n' roll, full of young kids, but the landlord and his wife were middle-aged 'Nouveau Riche' who didn't like the music loud! They often had music on, but the landlord would always tell bands to turn it down! Every time they told us to turn it down, we'd turn it up a notch! Eventually, they unplugged us, so we plugged ourselves back in and carried on! We got louder and louder – the punters loved it, but the landlord didn't and he called the police. They arrived and, after a short discussion, they decided it was a civil dispute which didn't involve them and they

left! They landlord had played his final card, so he had to let us finish the gig! The punters loved it and, surprisingly, we didn't get paid!"

13. Brighton Police Station, Brighton, West Sussex.

In 1978, after the Brighton Centre gig, an acquaintance of the band was arrested and taken here. Jet, JJ and a Finchley Boy, Dennis, went down to get him out, but due to their 'drunken and loutish' behaviour, they ended up in the cells as well. When the case came to court, it was thrown out and the 3 were let off!

14. Hugin Viking Ship, Pegwell Bay, Nr. Ramsgate, Kent.

This is the longship that featured in the photo session for 'The Raven' album in 1979. Jet had suggested that it might make a good scene for the session. In keeping with the subject of the L.P. Jet knew of the existence of the longship from a school trip he went on as a child. This longship was rowed across the North Sea to Britain and Jet and his friends were there to meet it! (Not even the rest of the band know that!).

15. Prison, Chelmsford, Essex.

The band played a gig to the inmates of this prison in the summer of '76. The gig nearly didn't happen, as each band member's I.D. had to be authorised prior to the gig, and Jet's had got lost in the post. Eventually, the whole band were let in and played the gig to an enthusiastic (but captive!) audience! The gig was even reviewed by 'Sounds' in August 1976, featuring a wonderful photo of the band (featuring Dave with a 'Goatee' beard, a pony tail and a lovely safari suit with flares, all finished off with a dashing pair of sandals! Smart!

16. Conservative Club, Purley, Surrey.

Scene of a rather amusing incident from the bands Chiddingfold days. "We'd talked our way into a gig, a ball, which was a really posh do! Very un-Stranglers!" says Jet, "all the ladies were in ballgowns and the men looked like penguins! We emptied the hall of all two hundred and fifty people within three songs! Only one guy stayed and he loved it".

Apparently, even before the first note was played, Jet had announced to the audience "you won't like us, so you might as well fuck off now!" Well, at least he tried to tell them.....

It's worth noting that you shouldn't waste your time looking for Jet's old 'Courage' off-licence in Guildford, as it was demolished a few years ago! Anyway, I hope you can find some of these landmarks from the early days of the band's history.

Thanks (yet again) to Jet for his help, to Jacquie, Wig and Carl and an extra special thanks to Mrs. Rubens for her assistance!

A London

I was born and bred in London. Indeed, it's been the physical backdrop to my life for over forty years. I'd like to think I know parts of it, and the history of those parts, reasonably well. Therefore I often get asked by friends or relations from out of town if I could recommend a walk that would take in some interesting sights and give a flavour of the city.

There is one walk that I often take them on and it occurred to me that S.I.S members who find themselves in London with a few hours to kill might like to follow our footsteps.

I always start with a meal in China town, which is situated in and around Gerrard Street. If you go for lunch check out the wonderful "Dim Sum" which is brought by your table on chrome chariots. Most restaurants serve this, between 12.00 and 3.00. There's probably forty or so different dishes available, often cooked for you as you watch. This cuisine usually consists of small bite size dishes and is great value for money. My personal favourites are SIU MAI (steamed minced pork and prawn, dumplings), WAR TIP (fried pork dumpling with vinegar), HAR KAU (steamed prawn dumplings) and CHEUNG FUN (steamed rice flour rolls with prawn).

After eating, head east and walk under the Chinese gate at the junction of Gerrard Str. and Gerrard Place. Turn right into Newport Place and go past the Chinese fresh fish shop (on the left) and then turn left into Newport Court. Thirty yards down, on the right hand side, you will find Steve's Sounds. This is a great place to get new CDs at a good price and also rare vinyl. Carry on and you will come to Charing Cross Rd. This is the place for books. The famous Foyles is at the top end and there are many second hand and specialist bookshops along it's length. Silver Moon specialises in Feminist writing, Zwemmers is great for Art, Design, Photography and Music. There's also an Islamic book specialist amongst others.

Cross the Charing Cross Rd into Great Newport Street. Halfway up on the left hand side you will come to the excellent Photographers Gallery which is usually worth a look around. The gallery exists in two buildings. In between the first and second you will find the Unicorn Theatre for Children. A plaque over the second part of the gallery tells you that Sir Joshua Reynolds lived there from 1753 to 1761.

Walk

By John Ellis



Carrying on, you will come to a junction of six roads. Turn right and walk into St. Martins Lane. As you walk down on the right hand side you will come to the Alberty Theatre. Now cross the road. Soon you will come to New Row. Looking across the road you will see St Martins Court, home of some excellent specialist book shops. Walk a few yards down and turn left into Goodwins court. It's worth taking a quick look up here as this row of offices will give you a feeling of the London of Charles Dickens, which featured so prominently in his novels. On the opposite side of St Martins Lane you will see Cecil Court. Another street full of specialist bookshops. The excellent Watkins Books, specialising in occult, religious and New Age material can be found here.

There are two other theatres of note in St Martin's Lane, the main one being The London Coliseum which is now the home of The English National Opera and the other is the Duke of York's. Just before the Coliseum you will come to the Lumiere Cinema which shows films not normally released on general circulation. Walking on you will come to another large junction. Over to the right you will see the National Portrait Gallery which is built on to the side of the National Gallery. The permanent and changing exhibitions are well worth a visit.

In front of this building, on a traffic island, you will see a statue of Nurse Edith Cavell who was shot by the Germans in 1915 after helping prisoners of war to escape. Over in St Martin's place, to the right of the Portrait Gallery you will see a statue of

Sir Henry Irving (1838-1905). This is the only monument to an actor in London and was erected in 1910. Carry on past William the Fourth Street (on the left) and you will come to the church of St Martin's in the Fields. As the name implies, this was once a medieval church surrounded by fields. It was also the parish church of Buckingham Palace. It was remodelled by James Gibbs in the early 18th century. These days it is a well known night shelter for the homeless.

Moving on and looking to your right you will see the famous Trafalgar Square. Created as a monument to Nelson's famous naval victory the square is dominated by Nelson's Column which has a statue of the man himself at the top. The lions at the bottom were designed by the Victorian painter Landseer. The Square was completed in 1841 and the fountains added in 1948. If you decide to feed the pigeons there's a very good chance you'll get pooped on. You have been warned!

If you've got a lot of time, then the National Gallery is a must. This is the large porticoed building on the right, looking over the square. When I was an art student I had to spend a lot of time here, copying masterpieces. I spent most of my time in the Dutch and Flemish rooms which house some wonderful Vermeers. There are also some well known Impressionist works and a lot of Renaissance masterpieces. To get the most out of this place you really need a full day.

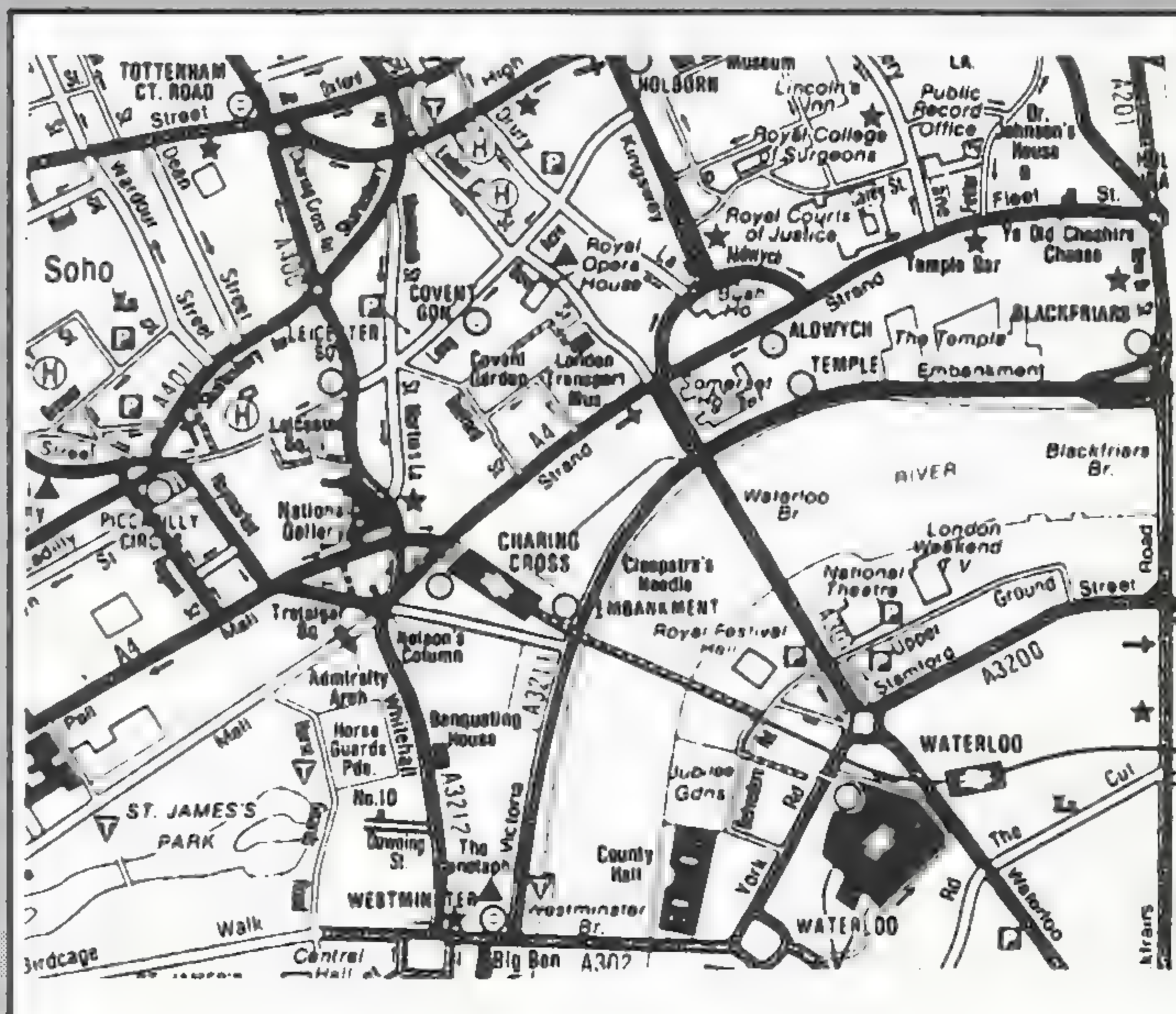
Carry on past St Martins and turn left at Duncannon Str. A few steps will bring you to The Strand and opposite you, Charing Cross Station. The first thing you'll notice in the station forecourt is the incongruous medieval carved stone monument. This is actually a copy of the original "Charing Cross" which gives the area it's name. There were originally thirteen similar crosses set up by Edward I to mark the places where the coffin of his wife Eleanor was laid on its journey to Westminster. The origin of the word Charing is thought to come either from a corruption of "Cher Reign" or from the verb to chair i.e carry (the coffin). Turn left into The Strand and head east.

As you walk along the Strand look down the several streets that lead off on the right. Most of them will give you a view of the river Thames and the Embankment that runs along it. On the left, the first building of note is the modern headquarters of Coutts & Co. The entrance and reception area are said to be haunted by two Elizabethan gentlemen. Next, on the right, you will see some steps leading down to the columned front of the Royal Society of Arts.

Walking on past the Adelphi and Vaudeville Theatres you will come to the main shop of the famous Stanley Gibbons, well known to stamp collectors everywhere. Almost directly opposite you will see the grand entrance to Shell-Mex House. This huge building was originally the Cecil Hotel and when it opened in 1886 it was the largest hotel in Europe. When you come to Southampton Street, on the left, you could take a detour up to the Covent Garden Piazza for a bit of shopping or check out the Museum of Transport.

Next, on the right, you will see the entrance to The Savoy Hotel and Savoy Theatre. These buildings stand on the site of the ancient Palace of the Savoy, presented by Henry III to his uncle, the Count of Savoy. Originally built in 1241, it was rebuilt as a hospital by Henry VII in 1510-1516. Moving on past the famous Simpsons in the Strand restaurant notice the commemorative plaques either side of Savoy Buildings. Now you will come to Lancaster Place which leads off to the right. This is the approach road to Waterloo Bridge which crosses the river and brings you to the South Bank complex of theatres and galleries as well as Waterloo Station. The large grey building on the left is one side of Somerset House.

To be continued.....



Strangled Letters

Got anything to say?.....

I may need to edit your letter in order to be able to print as many as possible. If you would rather have yours printed in full or not all, please let me know.

Everyone involved in the Day Into Night (including the band) has been totally overwhelmed by the number of letters that came in to SIS after the event – thanks to everyone who took the trouble to write in and we're glad that you enjoyed the day.



The Edinburgh Train,
King's Cross Station,
London

Sunday 12th Sept 1993 – 2.10pm – waiting for the train to take me back.

Dear Marian

What can I say?? It was F A B !! – the earth moved.... (& the wardrobe door opened....!?) – ... and H U G E.

Thanx to you for your **mega** efforts for yesterday. You can stop fretting now, it's over for another year.... at least give yourself a few days before starting to think about next year's 20th extravaganza!! (stop screaming and gibbering in the corner, it'll go away soon, I promise....). You did yourselves proud, kiddo!

In fact, it was more fun than a standard gig, coz it was more like a party, where EVERYONE likes the same music! And, of course, for all our individual differences, we were all there for one thing (well, 5 actually!).... but then you know all that so I'll shut up...

I'm SO glad I didn't let working in sunny Scotland stop me from coming – a worthwhile journey; all the more so for the highlight of the evening – Jet singing 'Old Codger'! I'd have come down for that alone – **what** a star!!

On that note, M, I'll bugger off now & let you recover.... many thanx M.I.B. for being **such** gents!

Edinburgh is ready & waiting for you all (and so am I!) – come on down (er...up...)!

Have a holiday, Marian! (*a what?* – M.)

Luv 'n' haggis,

Roo-in-black'n'red ('n' hat)

Dear Marian,

It was barely an hour ago; there he was, the 'Old Codger' himself, Mr J Black, serenading the crowd in a surprisingly dulcet tone. Wonderful! Truly wonderful. And what a beautiful gesture by the band. And just before that we had a certain J.J. Burnel 'breezing' – I can't think of a better word – in his inimitable way about that sleaze-bag Harry. Again, beautiful and loved by all.

Just two memories of an astonishing day; but there was more. There was a certain Paul Roberts, for instance, a sequined revelation. In-compèrable!! If Paul hadn't won over certain fans before today, he certainly has done now. And, of course, there were the two Meninblack (especially the comedian of the two with his Stan Laurel impersonation and brief rendition of 'Hey Big Spender' etc). And I mustn't forget the chap who stood on my broken toe – well, bounced, to be more precise – during 'Toiler'.... I even loved him.

I could go on and on. In fact I will. No, just joking except to say thanks to JJ for the two minutes or so that I grabbed when he'd just walked into the Venue and before he was mobbed upstairs.

And finally, thanks to you (and Owen et al, et al, et al) for organising the event. Not just a formal, perfunctory thanks, but a genuine, really "I had a fantastic day" sincere 'thanks'. It was my twentieth concert and one which, for many reasons, will stay in my mind for ever.

So to you, JJ, Jet, Paul, Dave, John and last, but not least, Tim the drummer...THANKS!

All the best, Scott Haragan, Erith, Kent.

Dear Strangled,

On August 14th, I went to see the Stranglers play at the Caracalla Festival in deepest Flanders, Belgium. I have to say that it was one of the strangest concerts I've been to. The boys were headlining the gig and came on at half past midnight to the greatest indifference I've ever seen, it was almost embarrassing. The large crowd consisted mainly of 15 year olds (up way past their bedtime I'm sure) who had come to pay homage to the previous act, their pop hero 'Arno' (who ??). The only good thing about this was that it was incredibly easy to stand at the front. However, the atmosphere was zero despite the brave efforts of the band. Everyone in the crowd with the exception of 20 or so fans just stood there and gawped. The impression it left was one of having watched the Stranglers in your own front room at home with your mates !!

As a credit to their professionalism, the band put in a sterling performance, playing with energy and commitment when others would have sodded off after 15 minutes. It was great to hear "English Towns", "5 Minutes", "Ugly", "Tank" and "London Lady" again among others.

Hopefully, the Stranglers will soon come down to Brussels where there must be more fans, and perhaps next time, they'll bring Jet with them. Where was he? And who was replacing him? (*Demon drummer and friend of Paul's, Tim Bruce*).

All the best, Michael Curtis, Brussels



Photo: John Pridge

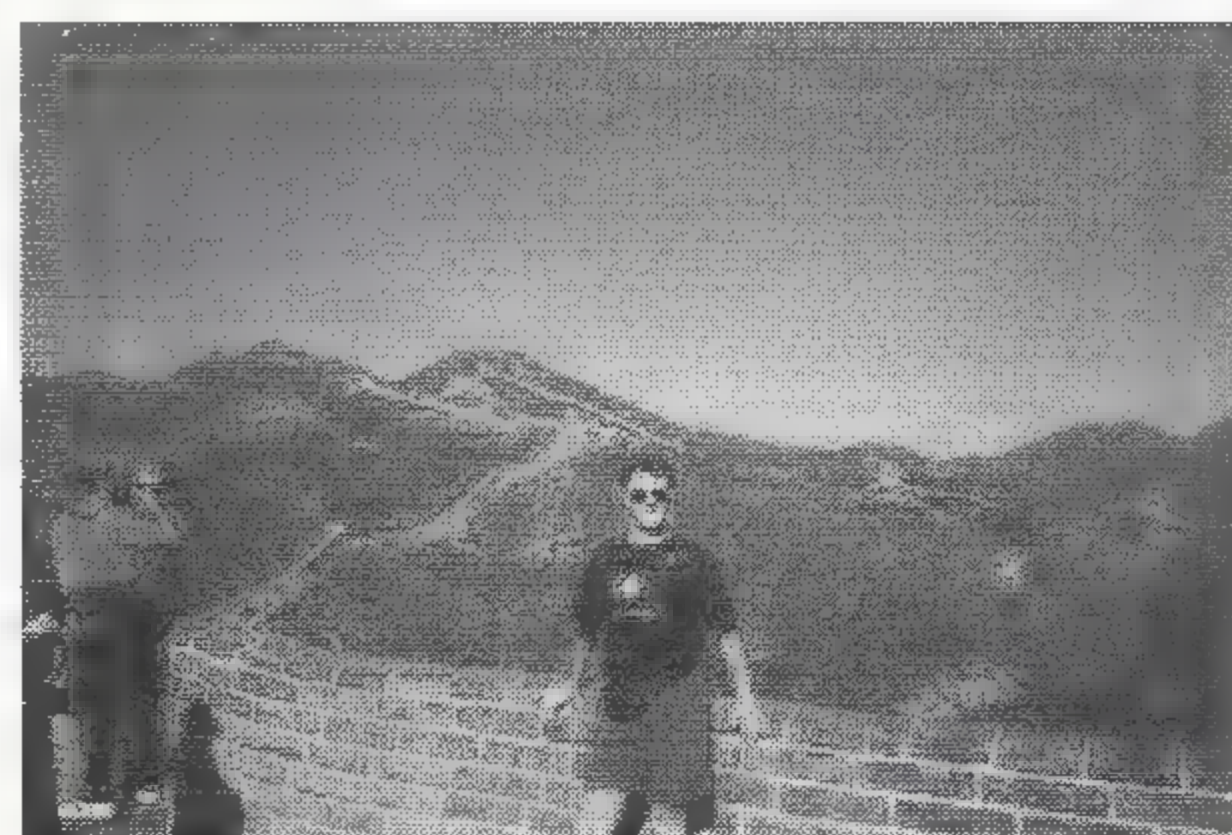
I've enclosed a picture of me in my 'Day Into Night' T-shirt on the Great Wall of China. It would be interesting if any other fans have photos of them in their Stranglers T-shirts in interesting places, no? (*Yes, send 'em in! M.*)

I really enjoyed SIS day 1993. Thanks for letting me have a small stall – it was great talking to other collectors.

Well, keep up all the good work and thanks to all the people involved in Day Into Night '93.

All the best,

Paul Davies
London.



SOMETHING BETTER CHANGE.

A number of our subscribers have been serving in Bosnia and have witnessed the tearing apart of the former Yugoslavia. Michael Roberts gives us here his harrowing first hand account of the atrocities which, to too many of us, have just been 'another news item'.

I have just completed a six month tour of duty in Bosnia. Sanity retention was definitely helped by frequent doses of "In the Night" – a view not always shared by the other 3 men in my tiny room!

Before coming here, all I knew about the former Yugoslavia came from general reading about World War 2. I knew that there had been racial and religious hatred in the Balkans since the 13th Century. I had read about the atrocities committed on all sides during and after the war whether by the Fascist Croatian Ustashi Government in support of the invading Germans or by the Serbian Chetniks who were supported by the Allies and who supported Tito's Army of Liberation. Revenge killings are not unknown in this part of the world and people have long memories.

So, I should not have been surprised at the ferocity of the present conflict. But, somehow I was. It is different when you see for yourself a new, modern European house in ruins. Or when you meet a family of refugees with their pitiful possessions on the road and they could be your own family.

After the breakup of former Yugoslavia, fighting first broke out between Croatia and Serbia. The UN was so sure that Bosnia would stay peaceful that it originally planned to set up the main UN base in Sarajevo. Ironical now, after 18 months of bloody war which is rarely off our television screens. From where I sit, the reporting is incredibly biased and full of personal opinions rather than facts!

I am based in Kiseljak, a small Croat town about 25 kms north west of Sarajevo. The town is almost completely surrounded by the mainly Muslim Bosnian Army and the people still left in the town are terrified at the prospect of Muslim domination. They should be since earlier in the year when the Croats were in the ascendancy in this area, many Muslim families were thrown out of their houses in the middle of the night, allowed to take only what they could carry.

Our mandate here is to support the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in their efforts to distribute humanitarian relief in Bosnia Hercegovina. This means we guard convoys, help repair roads and utilities and provide confidence to allow people to maintain as much normality as possible in the middle of a civil war.

I arrived in Split, on the Dalmatian Coast, when it was still winter after a slight contretemps with Croatian Airlines who tried hard to part me from my luggage. After the usual administrative delays (not to mention straight cock-up!), I left next day on a convoy headed north. With, of course, flak jacket and helmet. I still find it hard to

describe the main supply road into central Bosnia to people who have never seen it! I travelled in the front seat of a fuel tanker and my high spirits were soon subdued as we passed through once thriving villages, burnt out during the fighting. Some eight hours later with no end in sight I was even more depressed. The roads are little more than cart tracks and watching the driver struggle to make his way up and over them was nerve racking to say the least. It took a total of 18 hours to reach Central Bosnia – and that is by no means unusual even in good weather – in normal times, over the good main roads, the journey would take 4 hours!



After some near misses with local transport and the sheer drops we eventually rolled into Kiseljak and the Hotel Dalmacija, my home whilst in Bosnia. The hotel was built especially for the 1984 Olympic Games and living in a hotel may sound pretty easy but I can assure you that, although it is by no means difficult, it certainly isn't a life of luxury. Space is at a premium and the only way to get privacy is to go to the loo! We have had long periods without electricity and occasionally without water. We are however warm and dry (unless you are under part of the roof that leaks!).

In the time I have been here one trip, my first into Sarajevo, really stands out. We send our mail truck out twice daily into Sarajevo to collect and deliver mail from the airport there. Our mail truck is just that, a truck, it isn't armoured in any way and the only form of protection it has is from an escort of Danish APCs (Armoured Personnel Carriers). Of course the view from the cab is terrific and I leapt at the chance to go as escort one fine day. We negotiated all the checkpoints on the way into Sarajevo, until we came into the last one – then we had the misfortune of breaking down. This caused some considerable humour among the Bosnian Serbs who were manning the checkpoint. They were even more amused when we had to be

towed (very slowly) by one of our escorting APCs. We were towed through the infamous Sniper Alley at rather slower speed than normal – feeling very vulnerable – and into the airport which seemed like a bad World War Two movie with shells and bullets flying everywhere. Okay, so maybe I exaggerate a little, but it didn't feel like an exaggeration at the time!

Ethnic Cleansing (whoever thought of that pathetic title) is something which is very difficult to stop, control or monitor. There really is a game of tit for tat going on, where for instance, the HVO (Bosnian Croats) will move Muslims from their homes in one village only to find that the BiH have got wind of this and they in turn have moved out some Croats from another village. People have been taken from their homes and forced to dig trenches etc for the other side and held as bargaining chips in exchanges for Prisoners of War etc. The thought of being woken up in the middle of the night and told to leave your home and all your belongings and then go somewhere else (if you're lucky) is something that we in Britain could never imagine happening to us. I expect that's what most of the people here thought too, after all there had been peace here for decades and the children went to the same schools and learnt the same things, they married each other and had more children and so on. However, it doesn't take much to stir up trouble and trouble always seems to escalate. I have just heard a story about people taken from their village to assist the BiH in mine clearing!

Reports of black marketeering have been widespread for months. It certainly goes on, has there been any war when it hasn't? Greed and the ability to make a profit out of other people's misery is nothing new and is certainly not something indigenous to Bosnia Hercegovina. It seems to me that the big problem is who the UN should give aid to...If it goes to the local officials you can bet your bottom Dollar that they, the Army and Police will get their share before any of the people who really need it get a look in. If, on the other hand it is distributed straight to the needy who is going to stop the heavies taking it away by force? The UN can't stay here for ever, the money – and let's face it – the interest of our governments, will not always be present.

Has the UN done any good since it has been here? Yes, I think it has. Certainly there is still death and suffering, but I feel that it would have been greater had there been no Blue Berets here to make all the sides think even a little bit before they act.

It is almost time for my tour of duty to come to an end. Winter is coming and there is not enough food stockpiled to see the people through to Spring. A huge effort is needed but the fighting continues to hamper the efforts of the aid agencies. I do not despair for this country but I come close...

Corporal Michael Roberts

AS EAST MEETS WEST

You may remember that in *Strangled* 38 I mentioned Gabi, a Romanian fan who wanted to write to other *Stranglers* fans round the world. She was happy to tell me that many of you write regularly to her, and she recently sent the following short article, written by her, her brother Sorin, and boyfriend Mihai, telling us about their lives in Romania.

We'll try to describe the lifestyle and preoccupations of the young people, especially from Timisoara.

It is an amazing thing to communicate with other people from other countries, to say what you really think, wish and hope. You, from the West, perhaps don't know how it is to strive, in a world of tyranny in the hands of idiots, to obtain something or do what you wish. If one of you had a "happy occasion" to visit the European Red camp, until 4 years when curtain of iron is fell down, you would notice the immense differences in living standards and possibilities from the East and West.

Before the revolution in Timisoara, it was a big thing to be able to get in touch with other countries but, in a way, our town was privileged because here exists home influences and communication with foreigners, thanks to the different nationalities which live in this town. But, everything was vague. In our opinion, Romania is a place full of goodwill, but for many people she is known just through Ceausescu, Communism, vampires, which probably are interesting things for you. These falsify our country's image.

Friends, do you realise how it is to live isolated from the rest of the world and to be considered a *nothing*?

In order for you to have an idea about our possibilities before 1989 from the point of view of the contact with the world through the agency of television, radio or press, we give you an example: TV had a programme just for two hours on a day, in the evening, in this time was brought praises for the Communist Party and dictator. It made us disgusted to think that we could live in such a society.

It is also difficult to procure good music. To get a piece with the *Stranglers* we must stay up throughout the night listening to the programmes of foreign countries on radio, or if somebody can considerably tape an album.

In that time there was a sort of competition between us in managing to obtain the most music because everything was hard to obtain and very rare.

We heard the *Stranglers* for the first time as some of our friends, older than us, had a few pieces of information. The first songs which we heard of theirs were 'Dead Los Angeles', 'Grip', 'No More Heroes', 'Peaches', but the first complete album was 'La Folie'.

In the last years we manage to procure even more albums and when we got the 'Feline' record we made a copy of the SIS address from the sleeve. In this way we made connection for the first time with the *Stranglers*. Marian gave us some information about the band's activity, their projects and she sent us some tapes. Also, she put us in touch with other fans from Britain. In their turn, they were interested to correspond with us and receptive to our proposals.

You are very lucky. You can procure anything and when you want, while we don't have this possibility. There's only one way - to go in the neighbour's countries (for example, Hungary) but not all the people take the liberty to buy from there because it is so expensive. In spite of this fact, things seem to go on OK. Young people have many alternatives for spending their free time. For example, admirers of the *Stranglers* have set up a club where we feel good, we listen to music, dance, have our bar, at one time we had a band who played there.

If this zone was in the past like an island which we all kept away from, today we think that we represent an attraction, a curiosity for you.

In order to know us you must understand us and consider us your fellow creatures - humans.

Many thanks to all who help us.

With friendliness, Mihai, Sorin and Gabi.

Dear Strangled,

I realise this is probably too late to make the summer issue of *Strangled*, but last night whilst describing Neil Young's "The Needle and the Damage Done" as the best song about heroin ever on Granada Television, Anthony H. Wilson said to Pete Waterman "Don't mention The Stranglers to me", obviously referring to Don't Bring Harry. Another long-running feud with a music/media personality perhaps? If so, what's the story?

Yours, Ianinblack, Bolton

Some years ago, JJ had a little 'set to' with (ie gave a severe pounding to) a friend of Tony Wilson - a journalist named Jon Savage whom JJ found particularly obnoxious. The wound of this incident is obviously still festering in the mind of AHW judging by his disparaging remark. M.

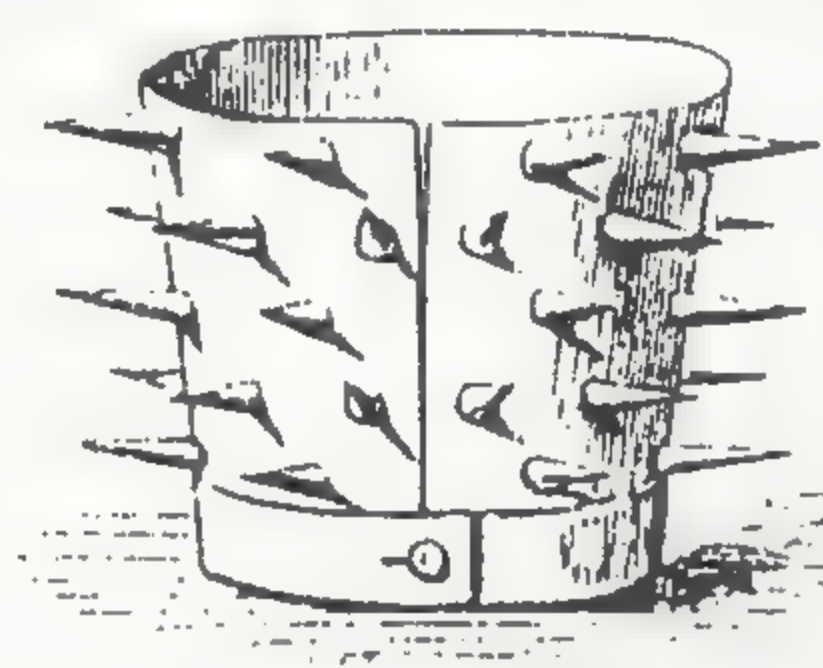
YOU REALLY SHOULD BUY ONE!

I did send this charming advert to SIS back in 1986, but in case it got lost in the several removals..... have fun with it! I found it in a text book for French pupils.

Marie-Pierre Gaudet, Valenciennes, France.

(ADVERTISEMENT.)

DO YOU WISH TO AVOID BEING STRANGLED!!



It is, try our Patent Antigarotte Collar, which enables Gentlemen to walk the streets of London in perfect safety at all hours of the day or night.

THESE UNIQUE ARTICLES OF DRESS

Are made to measure, of the hardest steel, and are warranted to withstand the grip of

THE MOST MUSCULAR RUFFIAN IN THE METROPOLIS,

Who would get black in the face himself before he could make the slightest impression upon his intended victim. They are highly polished, and

Elegantly Studded with the Sharpest Spikes,

Thus combining a most *recherché* appearance with perfect protection from the murderous attacks which occur every day in the most frequented thoroughfares. Price 7s. 6d., or six for 40s.

WHITE, CHOKER, AND Co.



EFFECT OF THE ANTIGAROTTE COLLAR ON A GARRHOTTER.

Mary Evans Picture Library

WANTED: H.C. CCW Album; J.J.B. Un Jour Parfait, CDs only. Any reasonable price paid or swap Hope & Anchor Front Row Festival dbl LP United Artists Street Music LP, Nosferatu LP, Euroman Cometh LP. Offers to Paul, 8 Kildonan Place, Hodge Lea, Milton Keynes MK12 6JQ.

INTERESTING: an approved magazine/Society for cult comedy and such actors as Rik Mayall, Ben Elton, French & Saunders, Rowan Atkinson and much more. Features, articles, interviews, serious discussion and open submissions policy. "Dove Dale", 9 Narrow Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9ND.

FOR SALE: All 12 Inches Aussie 12" Promo. Mint £20; Polish Postcards (2 of each) Two Sunspots/Dag. Dave/Ugly/D. Loss Angeles ea. £7; 7" Harry (French orig.) EX/EX £10; 7" No Mercy, rare 4-track g/fold w/promo photo, VG+/EX £12; Jet Black interview flexi (red v.) No. 87 of 1000 M/M £10; withdrawn M. Cougulan sleeve (2) ea. £8. K. McNulty, Rocky Road Records, 7 Romney Avenue, Glasgow G44 5AW. 041-637 3113.

FOR SALE: Stranglers material: 7", 12", magazines, LPs, live cassettes, lyric sheets, etc. For lists write to John McLean, 20 Miller Crescent, Muirhouses, Bo'ness EH51 9SR.

HELP PLEASE! My very old copy of Bad Company has given up the ghost. Can anyone out there help me to replace it? Or any other Bad Company tapes? Please contact Chris Winfield, Hillside, Padeswood Road, Buckley, Clwyd CH7 2JW. Tel: (0244) 541539.

FOR SALE: 'The Sordid World of Doctor Death' cassette EP by Circus In Town. Contains live cover version of 'No More Heroes'. £2. Available from 200 Jeansway, Dunstable, Beds. LU5 4PR. Tel: (0582) 668320.

FOR SALE: Ozymandias/Freddie Laker (Concorde and Eurobus) in picture sleeve. Sleeve OK. Record V-Good condition. Offers, or will swap for any Roy Harper singles etc, or music equipment. Phone John on (0272) 542152 (Bristol area).

IF ANYONE can help me get hold of my 'Walk On By' FREE single or a replacement for my *stolen* copy, I would be eternally grateful. Karl Goward, 18 Reve Crescent, Blofield Heath, Norwich NR13 4RX.

ANTHONY CRAFT, 1970-1993 - No More Heroes! Now your boat can slip into a calmer sea..... (sent by Colin Braby).

FED UP of going to gigs on your Jack Jones? I know I am. It's not much fun. Any dedicated Stranglers fans living in the Surrey (Epsom/Leatherhead) area? (There must be some!). Could I tag along? Call Martin on (0372) 272812.

WANTED: 'Choosie Suzy', 'Peaches' and 'Raven'. Will pay reasonable price. Please write to Nik, 24 Park View, Afonwen, Mold, Clwyd CH7 5UE.

URGENTLY WANTED: Any Devo CD singles; 'Woman' and 'The Power of Love' by Captain Sensible (both on CD). Cash waiting. Hi Liz. Peter Butler, 137 King Edward Avenue, Worthing, W.Sussex BN14 8DG. Tel: (0903) 237611.

The DIAN FOSSEY Gorilla Fund raises money internationally to ensure the 650 mountain gorillas left in the world survive. High in the mists of central Africa's forests the last remaining mountain gorillas, one of man's closest relatives, face an ever-present threat to their survival. Details from The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund UK, 110 Gloucester Avenue, London NW1 8JA.

WANTED: Any Stranglers, Damned, Buzzcocks, Clash, Joy Division, Sex Pistols, Exploited, GBH, Dead Kennedys, Clockwork Orange Addicts. Patches & Badges. Please send offers & prices to 21 Pevensey Avenue, Enfield, Middx. EN1 3HY.

I'D LIKE TO BUY "J.J.B. Stud of the Year". NME's December '77 Christmas centre-fold. Even a photocopy would do. PLEASE get in touch with Chris Winfield, Hillside, Padeswood Road, Buckley, Clwyd. Tel: (0244) 541539. Stay *Strangled* Stuart P. N.F.F.C. no. 3.



Strangled Small Ads are a free service to SIS members. To place an ad write out exactly the wording you want to appear (keep it short and legible please) and send on a separate piece of paper to "Small Ads, Strangled, PO Box 195, Cambridge CB4 2QJ. Don't forget to include your name & address or telephone number in the ad, and please keep it separate from any other letters or orders.

WANTED: Purple Helmets CDs, JJs Un Jour Parfait CD, Le Whiskey CD single. Any rarities & promos etc. FOR SALE: Psycho sweatshirt with reverse rat & old posters. Write to Kenny Lean, 24 Mansfield Avenue, Newtongrange, Midlothian, Scotland EH22 4SJ. PS: A fuckin' big hello to Martin Rutherford.

STRANGLERS CDs/tapes/vinyl/programmes etc. Many rare items. Will buy/sell. Related: Fools Dance 'You'll Never Know', Gaye Bykers 'All hung up'. SAE to 10 Harper Grove, Sutton-in-Craven, North Yorkshire BD20 7JN. "Pas pour nous les moments perdus".

SOMEBODY OUT THERE can help me. I'm looking for the following issues of *Strangled*: Vol. 1, Nos. 1-9, Vol. 2, Nos. 5, 12, 13, 19, 35, 36. If you've got a spare copy of any of these please contact me. Your prices paid, open to negotiations. Contact Darren Aedy, 16 Kilmichael Avenue, Newmains, Wishaw, Lanarkshire ML2 9NX.

MAKE MY DAY! Does anyone out there want to write to a slightly weird woman-in-black? All letters will be answered (eventually!). Please send to Chris Winfield, Hillside, Padeswood Road, Buckley, Clwyd CH7 2JW, U.K.

FOR SALE: *Strangled* Vol. 2, Nos 1-29 + an early issue in French. Also some lyric sheets. WANTED: Always The Sun '91 mix. Offers to W. Mowbray, 30 Albany Road, Old Windsor, Berks. SL4 2QA.

WANTED: Stranglers long sleeve T-shirt, green rat on chest, Stranglers logo down sleeve, in green. BRAVADO SHIRT which was on sale at Brixton Concert (Sunday) in '91. Phone Gaz (061) 338 6051.

FOR SALE: Stranglers collection of very rare photos, cuttings, badges, Cornwell book, Much Ado book (both originals), tour programmes, signed sleeve (from when Hugh was in nick!), rare B&W PR photos; all these rarities are 1977-82. Contact Chris McHale, 15 Richmond Hill Close, Leeds LS9 8JU. Tel: (0532) 406165.

HWP - Setz' dich auf meinem gesicht und sag mir dass du mich liebst - HRG.

STRANGLED Vol. 1, 5 & 6, photocopies £3 each. Copy of final year dissertation (10,000 words) Something Better Change - an examination of punk rock (obviously includes Stranglers acknowledgement) £4. Robert Wild, 24 Castle Street, Salford ST16 2EB. Any bikers fancy Sunday runs/Euro tour?

WHAT TYPE OF PERSON ARE YOU? Find out with an astrological profile or birthchart. Prices from £2 for Stranglers fans. Contact Chris Winfield, Hillside, Padeswood Road, Buckley, Clwyd CH7 2JW, or phone (0244) 541539.

FOR SALE OR SWAP: Grip 89 7" £2; Another Kind of Love 12" £3; *Strangled* No 35 £1; Stranglers mirror with name and rat logo size 9" x 9" £5, OR £10 the lot OR SWAP FOR 96 Tears 7"; Just Like Nothing On Earth 7"; Sweet Sister (CCW) 7"; Dreaming Again (HC) 7"; Rough With the Smooth (HC) 7"; Brand New Cadillac (PH) 7". Write with details to Terri, 316 Rectory Road, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear NE8 4DP.

A BIG HI to the couple from Dublin at the Convention - hope the hotel improved with use. Keep on gigging. And another Hi to the 3 Scots-in-black from Waverley Station (at 12.45 am). I hope my photos of your Karaoke effort came out OK. They're yours if you want the evidence! (and I'm lousy at remembering names, so if I looked confused I was whacking my little grey cells - sorry!) See ya'round Edinburgh. Roo-in-black 'n' red 'n' that.

WE'D BE GRATEFUL if whoever bought the notorious 'journalist + banana' photo at the '92 Convention auction could contact SIS as JJ would like to have a copy done (our own has come to grief). Thanks. Marian.

WANTED: Cuttings or photocopies of all 7"/LP reviews '77-'82. Jim Crichton, 6 Thomasmuir Ave., Bishopbriggs, Glasgow G64 1SW.

WANTED: 7" 3 early demos; 7" Heaven or Hell demo; 7" Jap Euro Female; LP Jap Great Lost Stranglers 1 and 2. Good price paid or swap for live tapes, videos. Tel: Martin on 041 882 1808. Hello to Colin Mace and Stephen Reid.

FOR SALE: Complete collection of Stranglers vinyl, tapes, posters and memorabilia etc. Lots of rare stuff. For detailed list send A4 SAE to David Gibson, 166 Cameron Drive, New Farm Loch, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire KA3 7PL.

SEND ME YOUR Want/Swap/Set Sale Lists! I will do likewise! Stranglers only. Greg Greathouse, 2172 10th St. SW, Akron, Ohio USA 44314. Tel: (216) 7532872 (2pm-3am UK).

HI! to Peter Murphy and Stephen Reid who I met in Edinburgh at the Hugh Cornwell gig. Thanks for the lift back to the B&B I was staying at. I will send you some info on the tour and Forkbeard as soon as I can. Paul Punaucy.

WANTED: Purple Helmets T-shirt. Kenny Lean, 24 Mansfield Avenue, Newtongrange, Midlothian EH22 4SJ.

GUJARIST/SINGER seeks other musicians (Merseyside area) to form band. Lots of songs/material but unsure of direction. Write to: Guy, 28A Woodland Road, Ellesmere Port, Wirral, Cheshire, L65 6PR.

WANTED: badges, patches, tour programmes. 12" SINGLES: Skin Deep, Paradise, Midnight Summer Dream, No Mercy, Golden Brown, Big In America, All Day And All Of The Night, Always The Sun 1986 & 1990, Grip 89 - (Geta) Grip (On Yourself). CD's: Grip '89, Always The Sun 1986, Nice In Nice, Big In America, Shakin' Like A Leaf, All Day And All Of The Night. SOLO STUFF WANTED on Hugh CD's, 12" singles, cassettes. JJ Burnel too and Purple Helmets Rides Again cassette. Ian in Black, c/o East Lynne, 6 Ogston Lane, Morayshire, Scotland IV31 6DX.

COULD THE PERSON I MET in a Bradford pub who caught me being sick on video at the World Convention, and put me to bed please give me a copy. John Buchanan, 15 Dundee Crescent, Bonnybridge, Scotland FK4 1EG. Tel: (0324) 813797.

HAS ANYONE got decent quality bootlegs of Goldwyns (Birmingham) 28/2/91 or Wolverhampton Civic Hall 1/10/92. Will pay or swap for similar. Doug (0742) 679326

FOR SALE 2 copies of The Early Years in LP format, £6.00 each inc. P & P both have numbered stickers on them. Write or phone Gary Rose, 44 Northleaze Farm, Bradford Road, Corsham SN13 0QP. Tel: (0249) 716177 after 6pm.

DID ANYONE manage to videotape the WHOLE of the recent 'DJ Heaven' series on BBC2 (or at least all the music clips without the waffle about the DJs)? You did? Would you be able to run me a copy (or even loan me yours so that I can copy it - good care will be taken of it, brownies' honour!). Drop me a line at SIS & name your price. Cheers. Marian.

Discography

Compiled by
Nik Yeomans

The discography is for UK issues only, the only exception being 'Un Jour Parfait' due its importance. Re-issue albums on 'Nice Price' etc or when two or more albums have been placed in a slip case will also not be included unless they have been re-packaged completely. The label in each case will be the original label and the original catalogue number will be printed. We shall also continue to list Hugh's solo recordings as they are of interest to many people.

7" = Standard Black Vinyl in Picture Sleeve
12" = Standard Black Vinyl in Picture Sleeve
X7" = Special Edition 7"

FL = Flexi Disc
X12" = Special Edition 12"
EP = 7" with extra tracks

PD = Picture Disc
CAS = Cassette
CV = Coloured Vinyl 7"

CD = CD Single
PCD = Picture CD Single
SPD = Shaped Picture Disc

ALBUMS

| Title | Catalogue No. | Label | Date | Format |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|------|------------------|
| Rattus Norvegicus | UAG 30045 | U.A. | 1977 | LP, CD, CAS |
| No More Heroes | UAG 30200 | U.A. | 1977 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Black and White | UAG 30222 | U.A. | 1978 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Live X-Cert | UAG 30224 | U.A. | 1978 | LP, CD, CAS |
| The Raven | UAG 30262 | U.A. | 1979 | LP, CD, CAS |
| The Meninblack | LBG 30313 | Liberty | 1981 | LP, CD, CAS |
| La Folie | LBG 30342 | Liberty | 1981 | LP, CD, CAS |
| The Collection 1977-82 | LBG 30353 | Liberty | 1982 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Feline | Epic 25237 | Epic | 1983 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Aural Sculpture | EPC 26220 | Epic | 1984 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Off The Beaten Track | LBG 5001 | Liberty | 1986 | LP, CAS |
| Dreamtime | EPC 26648 | Epic | 1986 | LP, CD, CAS, PD |
| All Live and All of the Night | EPC 460259 | Epic | 1988 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Rarities | EMS 1306 | Liberty | 1988 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Singles (The UA Years) | EM 1314 | Liberty | 1989 | LP, CD, CAS |
| 10 | 4664831 | Epic | 1990 | LP, CD, CAS, PD |
| Greatest Hits 1977-1990 | 4675411 | Epic | 1990 | LP, CD, CAS, PCD |
| All Twelve Inches | 4714162 | Epic | 1992 | CD, CAS |
| The Early Years - '74,'75,'76 | SPEAK 101 | Newspeak | 1992 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Live At The Hope & Anchor | 7987892 | EMI | 1992 | CD, CAS |
| Feline/Dreamtime ("Nice Price Two Originals" series) | 4668352 | Epic | 1992 | CD |
| Strangers In The Night | WOLCD 1030 | Psycho | 1992 | LP, CD, CAS |
| The Old Testament (4-CD box + book) | CD STRANG1 | EMI | 1992 | CD/Book |
| Saturday Night, Sunday Morning | ESS(CD/LP/MC)194 | Castle Communications | 1993 | LP, CD, CAS |

SINGLES/E.P.'s

| | | | | |
|--|------------|---------------|------|--------------------|
| Grip | UP 36211 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| Peaches/Go Buddy Go | UP 36248 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| Something Better Change/Straighten Out | UP 36277 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| No More Heroes | UP 36300 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| 5 Minutes | UP 36350 | U.A. | 1978 | 7" |
| Nice 'N' Sleazy | UP 36379 | U.A. | 1978 | 7" |
| Walk On By | UP 36429 | U.A. | 1978 | 7" |
| Duchess | BP 308 | U.A. | 1979 | 7" |
| Nuclear Device | BP 318 | U.A. | 1979 | 7" |
| Don't Bring Harry | STR 1 | U.A. | 1979 | 7" |
| Bear Cage | BP 344 | U.A. | 1980 | 7", 12" |
| Who Wants The World | BP 355 | U.A. | 1980 | 7" |
| Thrown Away | BP 383 | Liberty | 1981 | 7" |
| Just Like Nothing On Earth | BP 393 | Liberty | 1981 | 7" |
| Let Me Introduce You To The Family | BP 405 | Liberty | 1981 | 7" |
| Golden Brown | BP 407 | Liberty | 1981 | 7" |
| La Folie | BP 410 | Liberty | 1982 | 7" |
| Strange Little Girl | BP 412 | Liberty | 1982 | 7" |
| European Female | EPCA 2893 | Epic | 1982 | 7", PD |
| Midnight Summer Dream | EPCA 3167 | Epic | 1983 | 7", 12" |
| Paradise | EPCA 3387 | Epic | 1983 | 7", 12" |
| Skin Deep | EPCA 4738 | Epic | 1984 | 7", 12" |
| No Mercy | EPCA 4921 | Epic | 1984 | 7", EP, SPD, 12" |
| Let Me Down Easy | EPCA 6045 | Epic | 1985 | 7", 12", X12" |
| Nice In Nice | EPC 650055 | Epic | 1986 | 7", SPD, 12" |
| Always The Sun | SOLAR 1 | Epic | 1986 | 7", SPD, 12" |
| Big In America | HUGE 1 | Epic | 1987 | 7", SPD, 12" |
| Shakin' Like a Leaf | SHEIK 1 | Epic | 1987 | 7", SPD, 12", X12" |
| All Day and All of the Night | VICE 1 | Epic | 1987 | 7", SPD, 12", CD |
| Grip '89 | EM 84 | Liberty | 1989 | 7", CV, 12", CD |
| Nightracks Session | SFNT 20 | Strange Fruit | 1989 | 12", CD |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|--------|------|----------------------------|
| 96 Tears | TEARS 1 | Epic | 1990 | 7", 12", CD, PCD, CAS, X7" |
| Sweet Smell of Success | TEARS 2 | Epic | 1990 | 7", 12", X12", CD, CAS |
| Always The Sun | 6564307 | Epic | 1990 | 7", 12", PCD, CD, CAS |
| Golden Brown | 6567617 | Epic | 1991 | 7", CAS, CD |
| Heaven Or Hell | WOXCD 2025 | Psycho | 1992 | 12", CDx2, CAS |
| Sugar Bullets | PSYCD 002 | Psycho | 1992 | CD, CAS |

SPECIAL RELEASES

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|------|----|
| Choosy Susie | FREE 3 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| Peaches (censored version) | FREE 4 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| No More Heroes (edited) | FREE 8 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| Tits | FREE 9 | U.A. | 1978 | CV |
| Walk On By (edited) | UP 36429 | U.A. | 1978 | 7" |
| Don't Bring Harry (2 track 45rpm) | STR 1 DJ | U.A. | 1979 | 7" |
| Tomorrow Was | SIS 001 | SIS | 1980 | 7" |
| La Folie (edited) | BP 410 DJ | Liberty | 1982 | 7" |
| In Concert Transcription Disc 276 | 150461/25 | B.B.C. | 1982 | LP |
| European Female (double-sided) | EPCA 2893 | Epic | 1983 | 7" |
| Aural Sculpture | XPS 167 | Epic | 1983 | 7" |
| Golden Brown/Strange Little Girl | G 456 | Liberty | 1984 | 7" |
| In Concert Transcription Disc 356 | 155221/25 | B.B.C. | 1985 | LP |
| European Female/Skin Deep | OG 9964 | Old Gold | 1991 | 7" |
| New Day Today | SIS 004 | SIS | 1991 | FL |

CASSETTE ONLY RELEASE

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------|------|-----|
| 5 12" Mixes | EPC 450129 | Epic | 1986 | CAS |
|-------------|------------|------|------|-----|

VIDEOS

| | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|------|---------|
| The Collection | TVE9010322 | EMI | 1982 | PAL VHS |
| Gold Rushes (Golden Brown/Strange Little Girl) | PM0024 | PMI | 1982 | PAL VHS |
| Screentime | 357750 | CBS/Fox | 1986 | PAL VHS |
| Live In Madrid | SIS005 | SIS | 1990 | PAL VHS |
| Themeninblackincolour | 498922 | SMV | 1991 | PAL VHS |
| The Men In Black In French | SIS006 | SIS | 1991 | PAL VHS |
| The Old Testament | MVN 4910463 | PMI | 1992 | PAL VHS |
| SIS First World Convention | SIS007 | SIS | 1992 | PAL VHS |
| Battersea Plus | SIS008 | SIS | 1993 | PAL VHS |
| Saturday Night, Sunday Morning | CMP61031 | Castle Communications | 1993 | PAL VHS |
| Live at Fontwell Park | SIS009 | SIS | 1993 | PAL VHS |

SOLO AND ALLIED RECORDINGS

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------|------|-----------------|
| (i) J.J. Burnel | | | | |
| Euroman Cometh | UAG 30214 | U.A. | 1979 | LP, CAS, PD, CD |
| Freddie Laker | UP 36500 | U.A. | 1979 | 7" |



Lunchtime, and fatigued by a long recording session, the band fail to notice that the notorious cutlery and dining table thief has struck again.

Photo: Daniela Tilomelli

| | | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------|------|-------------------|
| Girl From The Snow Country (withdrawn) | BP 361 | U.A. | 1980 | 7" |
| Goebbels, Mosley, God and Ingrams | SIS 003 | S.I.S. | 1988 | 7", FL |
| Un Jour Parfait (France only) | EPC 462424 | Epic | 1988 | LP, CD, CAS |
| (ii) Hugh Cornwell | | | | |
| Nosferatu | UAG 30251 | U.A. | 1979 | LP, CAS, CD |
| White Room | BP 320 | U.A. | 1979 | 7" |
| One In A Million | PRTA 6509 | Portrait | 1985 | 7", 12" |
| Rough With The Smooth | DB 9140 | Columbia | 1986 | 7" |
| Facts and Figures | VS 922 | Virgin | 1987 | 7", 12" |
| Wolf | V 2420 | Virgin | 1988 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Another Kind of Love | VS 945 | Virgin | 1988 | 7", 12", CD |
| Dreaming Again | VS 1093 | Virgin | 1988 | 7", 12", CD |
| Sweet Sister (CCW) | 45005 | UFO | 1992 | 7", 12", CD |
| CCW | UFO9 | UFO | 1992 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Wired | TRANSCDI | Transmission | 1993 | CD, CAS |
| (iii) Dave Greenfield & J.J. Burnel | | | | |
| Fire and Water | EPC 25707 | Epic | 1983 | LP, CAS |
| Rain & Dole & Tea | EPCA 4076 | Epic | 1984 | 7" |
| (iv) A Marriage of Convenience (featuring Jet) | | | | |
| My Young Dreams | SIS 002 | S.I.S. | 1985 | 7" |
| (v) Celia and The Mutations | | | | |
| Mony Mony (features all band) | UP 36262 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| You Better Believe Me (features J.J.) | UP 36318 | U.A. | 1977 | 7" |
| (vi) Taxi Girl (features J.J. and Jet) | | | | |
| Seppuku | OVED 11 | Virgin | 1981 | LP, CAS, CD |
| (vii) Fools Dance (features J.J.) | | | | |
| They'll Never Know | LTS 22 | Lambs to the Slaughter | 1987 | 7", 12" |
| (viii) Gaye Bykers on Acid (B-side features Dave) | | | | |
| All Hung Up | VS 1027 | Virgin | 1987 | 7", 12" |
| (ix) Purple Helmets (features J.J., Dave & John) | | | | |
| Ride Again | ROSE 160 | New Rose | 1988 | LP, CVx2, CD, CAS |
| Rise Again | GRAM 42 | Anagram | 1989 | LP, CD, CAS |
| Brand New Cadillac | ANA 50 | Anagram | 1989 | 7", 12" |

